STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

X-WING ROGUE SQUADRON

VOLUME 3

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DARK HORSE BOOKS®

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Special thanks to Elaine Mederer, Jann Moorhead, David Anderman, Leland Chee, Sue Rostoni, and Amy Gary at Lucas Licensing.

Star Wars® Omnibus: X-Wing Rogue Squadron Volume Three
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This volume collects issues #21-35 of the series *Star Wars: X-Wing—Rogue Squadron*, encompassing the stories "In the Empire's Service," "The Making of Baron Fel," "Family Ties," "Masquerade," and "Mandatory Retirement," all originally published by Dark Horse Comics.

Published by Dark Horse Books,
a division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com | starwars.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

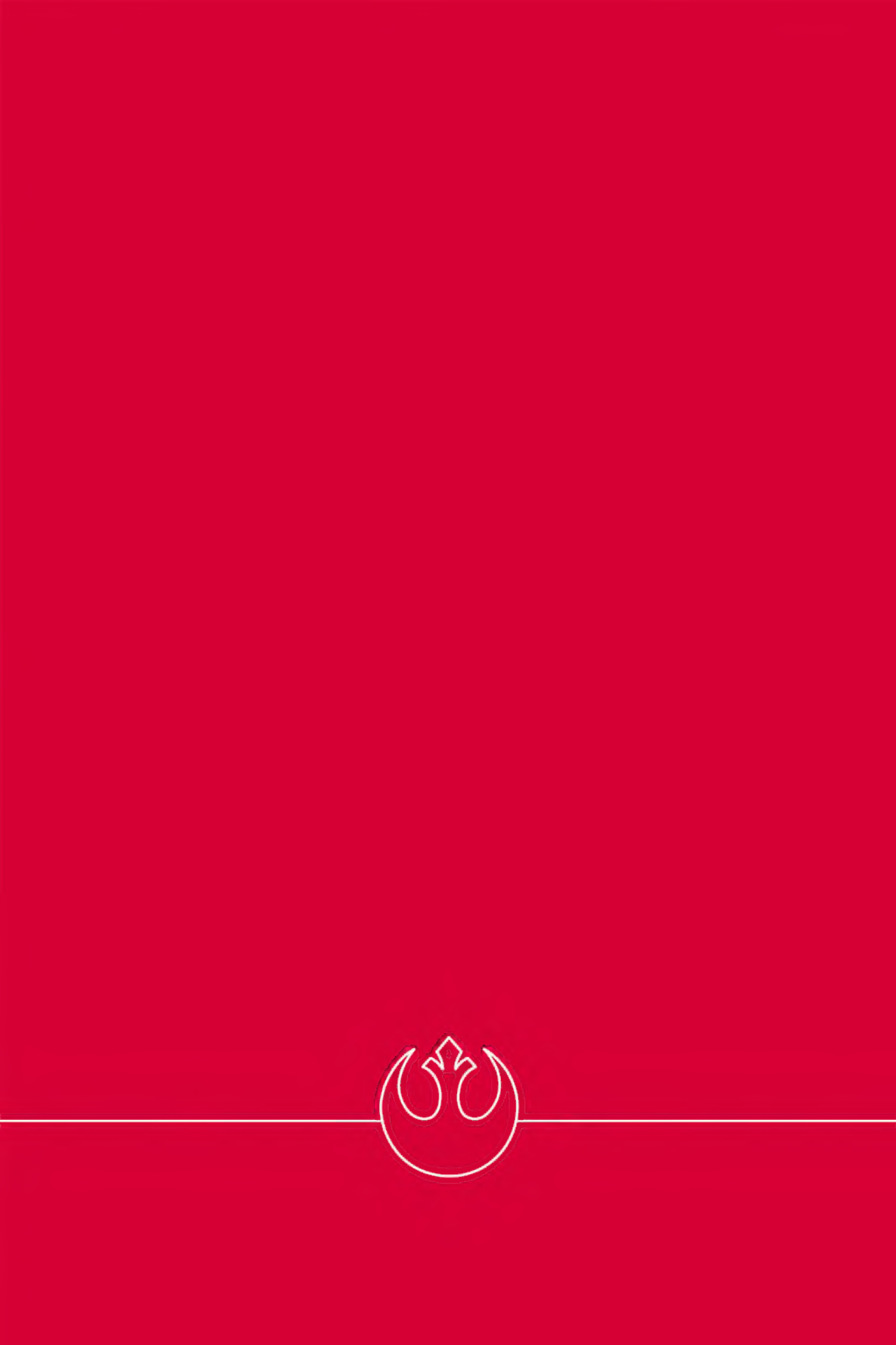
First edition: June 2007
ISBN-10: 1-59307-776-9
ISBN-13: 978-1-59307-776-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in China

The fighter squadrons of the Rebel Alliance were the home units of many great heroes in the battles against Palpatine's Galactic Empire, and none were more renowned than the pilots of Rogue Squadron. But it was after the turning point of the Battle of Endor when the Rogues, under the leadership of Wedge Antilles, proved their true importance to the New Republic.

With an assortment of different fighter craft, and an ever-changing roster of pilots, Rogue Squadron was instrumental in keeping the Imperial remnants in check and allowing the fledgling New Republic the time it needed to solidify its political and military base.

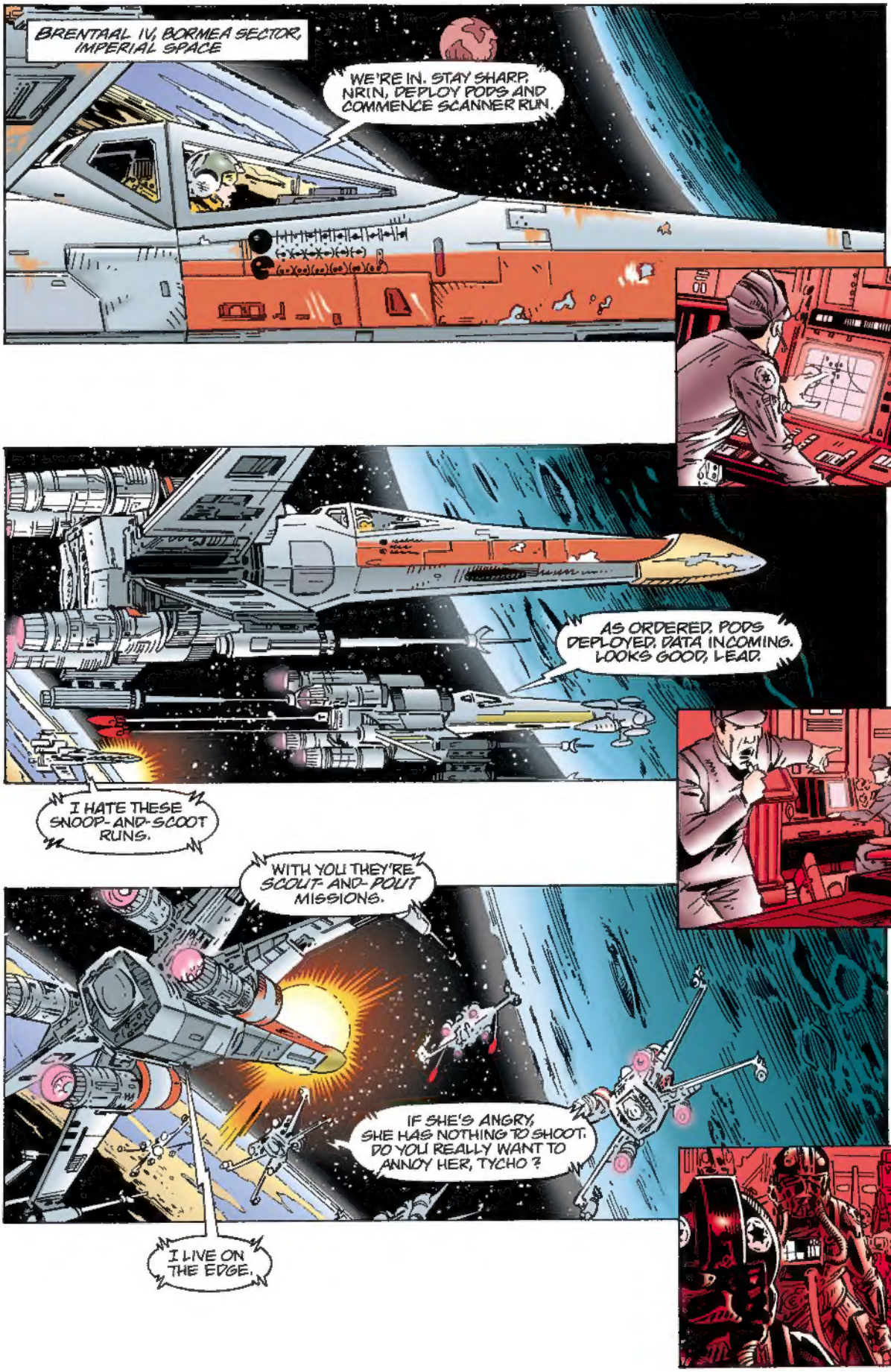
Here are the Rogues' stories . . .



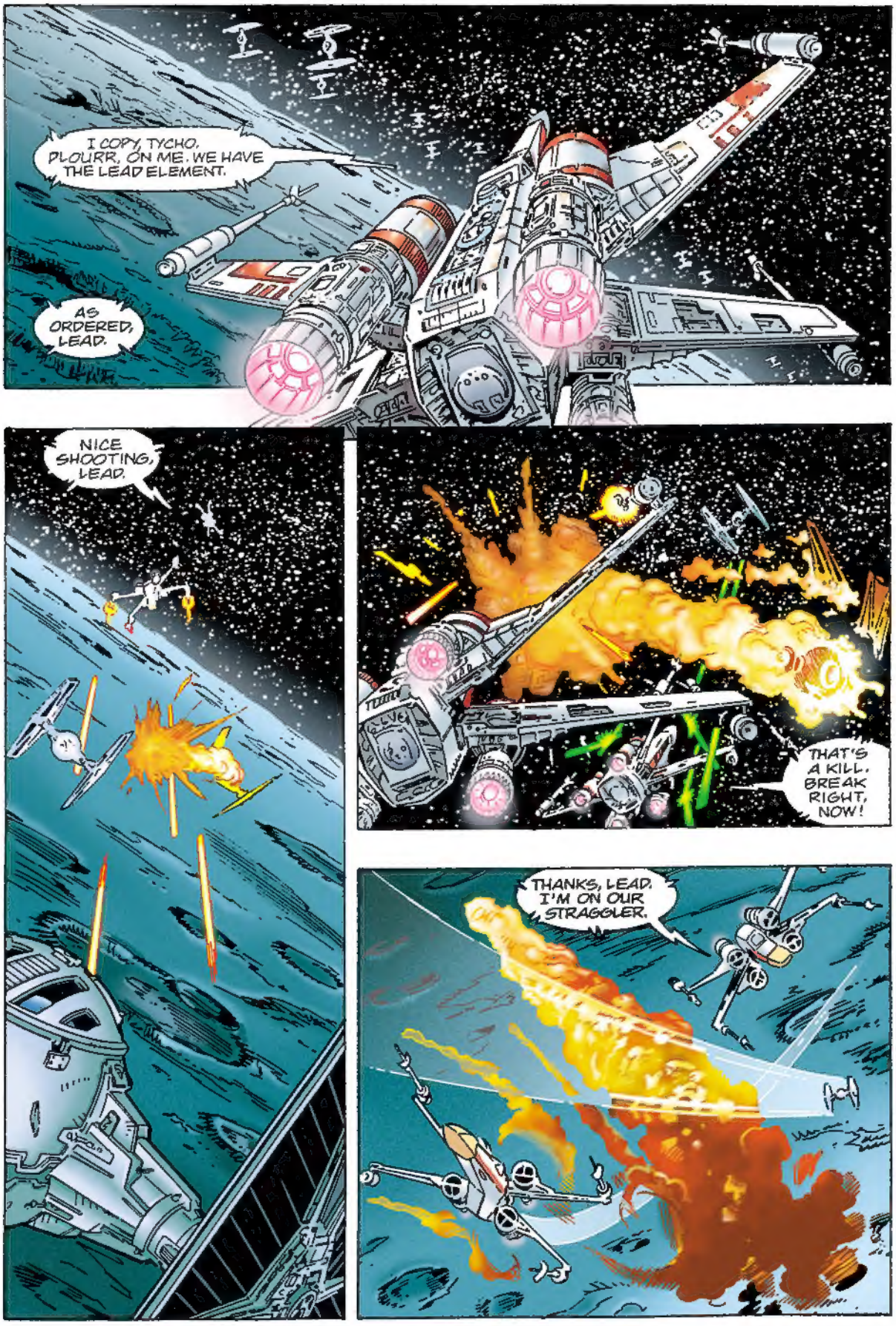
In the Empire's Service | Illustration by John Nadeau

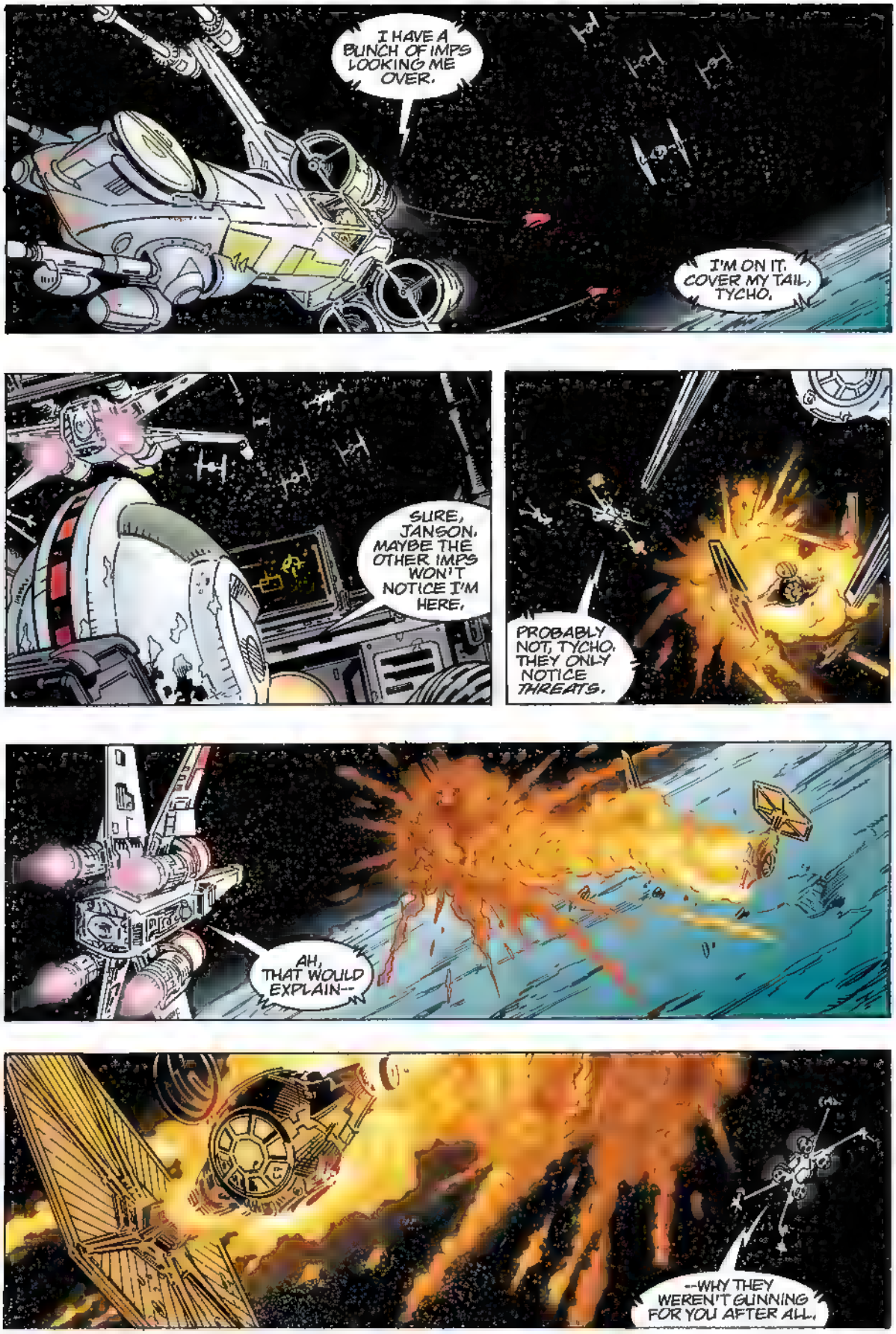
APPROXIMATELY NINE MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF ENDOR . . .

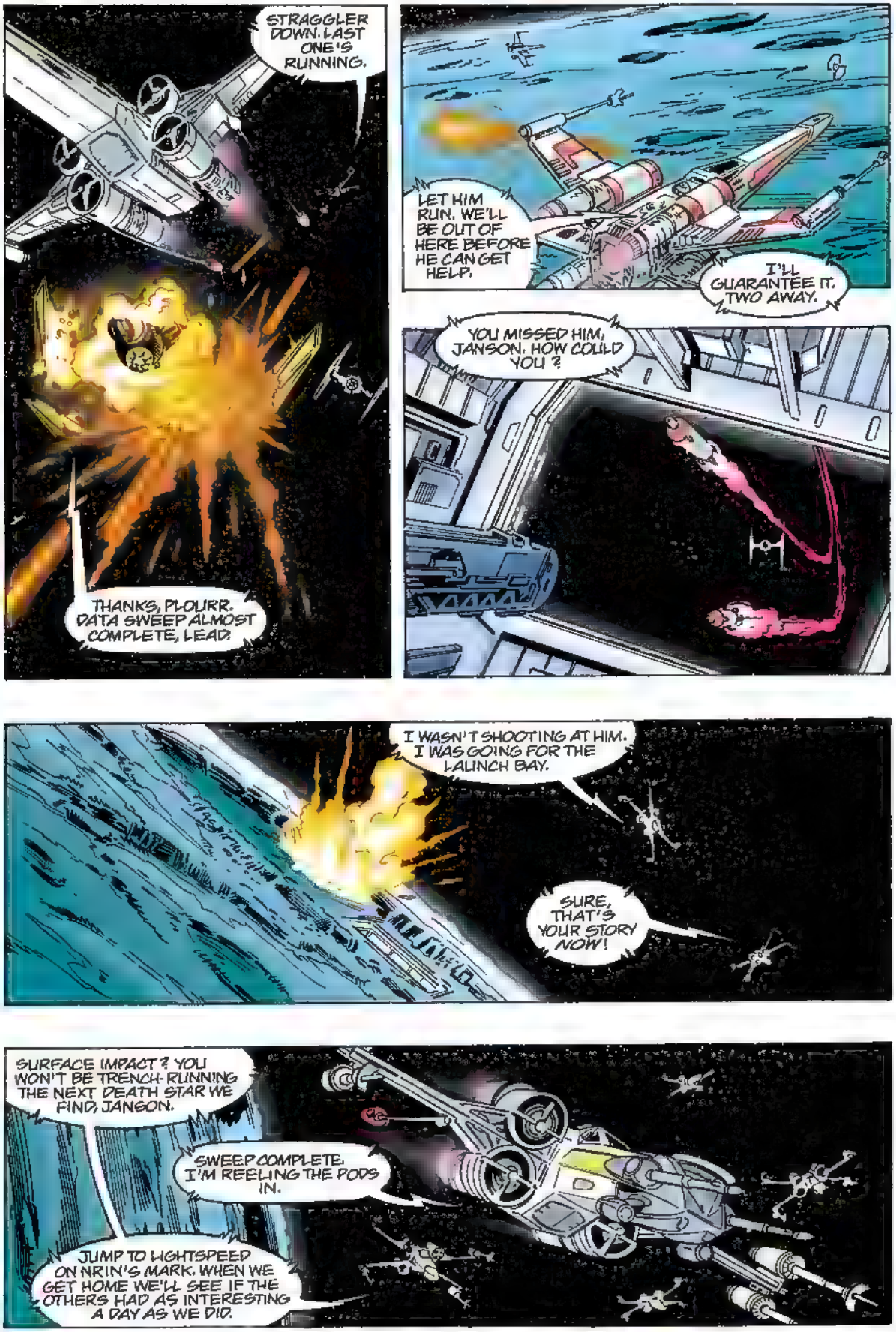
script by Michael A. Stackpole
pencils by John Nadeau
inks by Jordi Ensign
colors by David Nestelle
letters by Vickie Williams

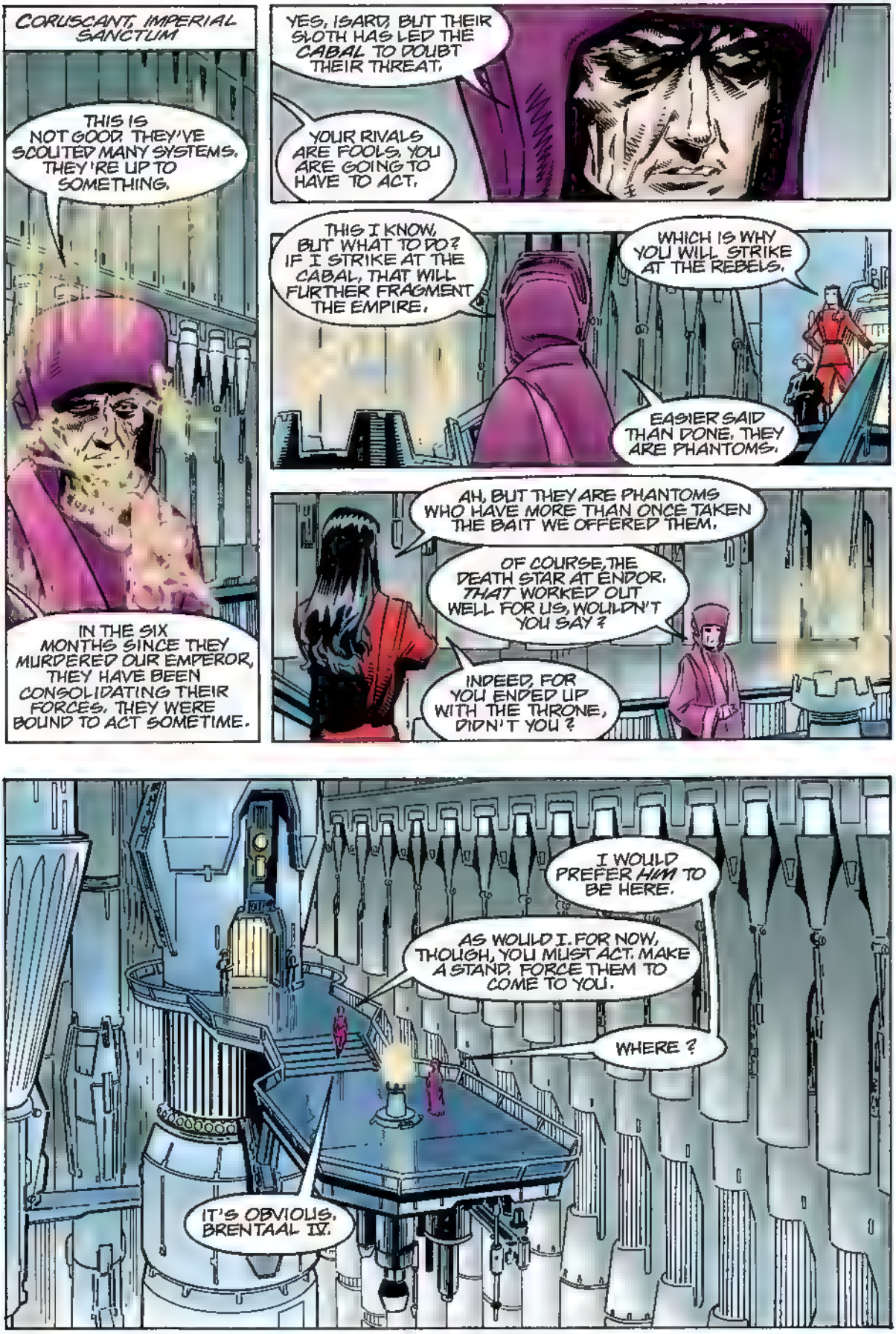

BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL SPACE
WE'RE IN. STAY SHARP, NRIN, DEPLOY PODS AND COMMENCE SCANNER RUN.
AS ORDERED. PODS DEPLOYED. DATA INCOMING. LOOKS GOOD, LEAD.
I HATE THESE SNOOP-AND-SCOOT RUNS.
WITH YOU THEY'RE SCOUT- AND- POUT MISSIONS.
IF SHE'S ANGRY, SHE HAS NOTHING TO SHOOT. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO ANNOY HER, TYCHO?
I LIVE ON THE EDGE.

YOU CAN DIE THERE, TOO, TYCHO.
LT. PLOURR ILO
SAVE THE IDLE BRAGS FOR SIMTIME, PLOURR.
LT. TYCHO CELCHU.
ALWAYS THE GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, EH, TYCHO?
LT. WES JANSON
CAN IT, ROGUES. NRIN DOESN'T NEED TO FILTER YOUR CHATTER FROM HIS DATA.
CAPTAIN WEDGE ANTILLES
I HAVE MULTIPLE CONTACTS COMING FROM THE MOON.
NUMBER AND TYPE?
EYEBALLS, LESS THAN A SQUADRON.
NRIN VAKIL
JUST AS WELL, WE'RE SOMETHING LESS THAN A SQUADRON RIGHT NOW...
LEAD, THEY'RE IN ATTACK FORMATION ECHO-3.


I COPY, TYCHO. PLOURR, ON ME. WE HAVE THE LEAD ELEMENT.
AS ORDERED, LEAD.
NICE SHOOTING, LEAD.
THAT'S A KILL. BREAK RIGHT, NOW!
THANKS, LEAD. I'M ON OUR STRAGGLER.

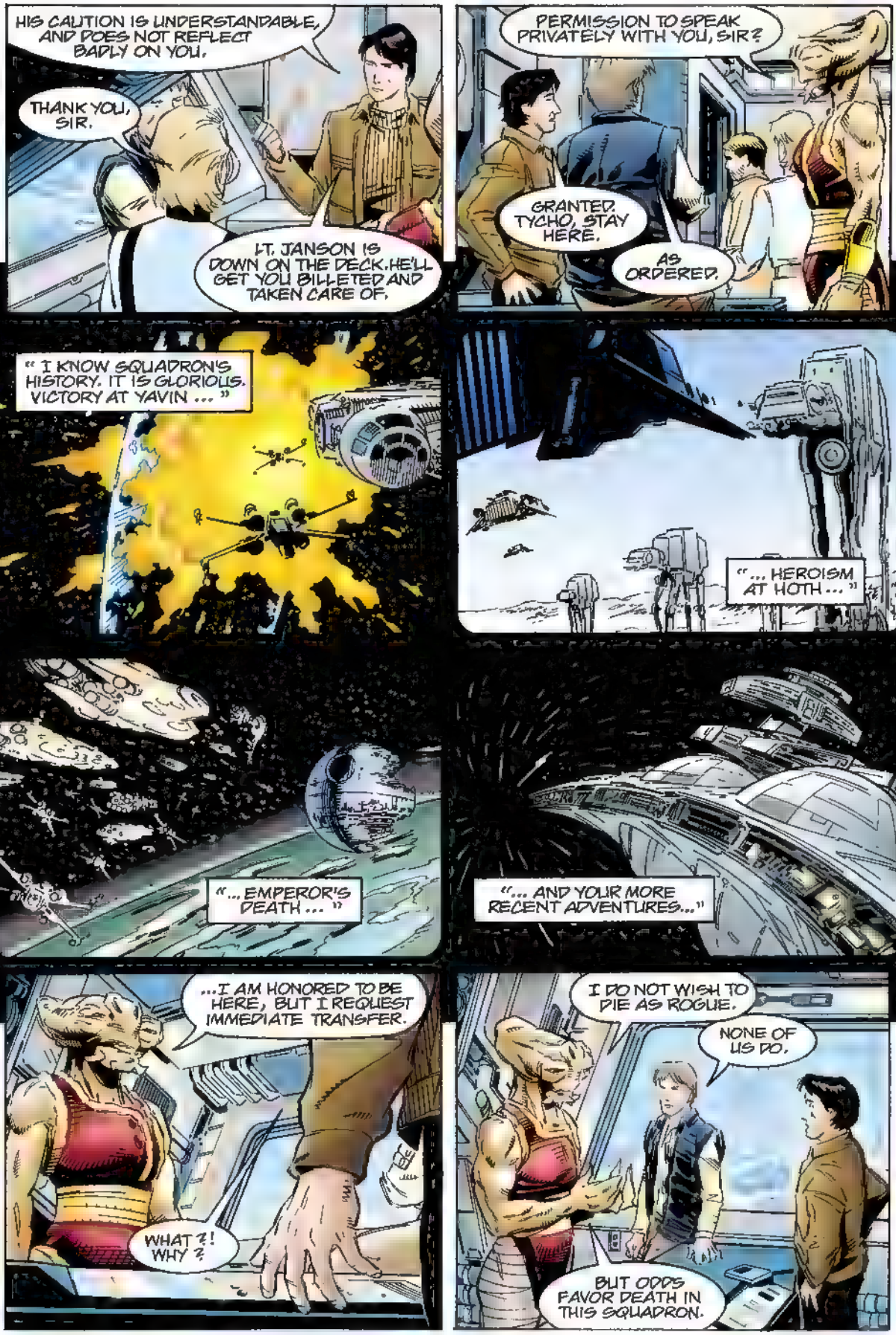

I HAVE A BUNCH OF IMPS LOOKING ME OVER.
I'M ON IT. COVER MY TAIL, TYCHO.
SURE, JANSON. MAYBE THE OTHER IMPS WON'T NOTICE I'M HERE.
PROBABLY NOT, TYCHO. THEY ONLY NOTICE THREATS.
AH, THAT WOULD EXPLAIN--
--WHY THEY WEREN'T GUNNING FOR YOU AFTER ALL.


STRAGGLER DOWN. LAST ONE'S RUNNING.
THANKS, PLOURR. DATA SWEEP ALMOST COMPLETE, LEAD.
LET HIM RUN. WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE CAN GET HELP.
I'LL GUARANTEE IT. TWO AWAY.
YOU MISSED HIM, JANSON. HOW COULD YOU ?
I WASN'T SHOOTING AT HIM. I WAS GOING FOR THE LAUNCH BAY.
SURE, THAT'S YOUR STORY NOW!
SURFACE IMPACT ? YOU WON'T BE TRENCH-RUNNING THE NEXT DEATH STAR WE FIND, JANSON.
SWEEP COMPLETE. I'M REELING THE PODS IN.
JUMP TO LIGHTSPEED ON NRIN'S MARK. WHEN WE GET HOME WE'LL SEE IF THE OTHERS HAD AS INTERESTING A DAY AS WE DID.


CORUSCANT, IMPERIAL SANCTUM
THIS IS NOT GOOD. THEY'VE SCOUTED MANY SYSTEMS. THEY'RE UP TO SOMETHING.
IN THE SIX MONTHS SINCE THEY MURDERED OUR EMPEROR, THEY HAVE BEEN CONSOLIDATING THEIR FORCES. THEY WERE BOUND TO ACT SOMETIME.
YES, ISARD. BUT THEIR SLOTH HAS LED THE CABAL TO DOUBT THEIR THREAT.
YOUR RIVALS ARE FOOLS. YOU ARE GOING TO HAVE TO ACT.
THIS I KNOW, BUT WHAT TO DO? IF I STRIKE AT THE CABAL, THAT WILL FURTHER FRAGMENT THE EMPIRE.
WHICH IS WHY YOU WILL STRIKE AT THE REBELS.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE. THEY ARE PHANTOMS.
AH, BUT THEY ARE PHANTOMS WHO HAVE MORE THAN ONCE TAKEN THE BAIT WE OFFERED THEM.
OF COURSE, THE DEATH STAR AT ENDOR. THAT WORKED OUT WELL FOR US, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
INDEED, FOR YOU ENDED UP WITH THE THRONE, DIDN'T YOU?
I WOULD PREFER HIM TO BE HERE.
AS WOULD I. FOR NOW, THOUGH, YOU MUST ACT. MAKE A STAND. FORCE THEM TO COME TO YOU.
WHERE?
IT'S OBVIOUS. BRENTAAL IV.

BRENTAAL IV? YOU WANT ME TO INVITE AN ATTACK THERE? HALF THE CABAL HAS PROPERTY THERE, AND ALL OF THEM SHARE ITS WEALTH.
THAT IS EXACTLY WHY THEY WILL WANT YOU TO DEFEND IT.
AND THE DENIZENS OF THAT WORLD HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR UPGRADING THEIR DEFENSES.
THIS IS TRUE, BUT I WILL NEED SOMEONE ELSE TO DEFEND IT. ADMIRAL ISOTO IS AN IDIOT.
BUT HE IS AN IDIOT THE CABAL FAVORS. LEAVE HIM UNTIL THEY BEG FOR CHANGE.
HE COULD LOSE THE WORLD. I HAVE HEARD HE IS A GLITBITER.
DO NOT LET HIS RECREATIONS TROUBLE YOU. HE IS THEIR MAN AND THEREFORE, THEIR MISTAKE.
YOU WILL SEE TO IT THAT HE WILL NOT BECOME MY MISTAKE?
I HAVE ELEMENTS OF THE 181ST IMPERIAL FIGHTING GROUP ON THE WAY TO BRENTAAL IV.
YOU WILL LET BARON FEL ENTERTAIN THE REBELS?
BARON FEL WILL ENTERTAIN US BY DESTROYING THE REBELS.

REBEL BASE DELTA-NINE
LOCATION: CONFIDENTIAL
SORRY TO HAVE KEPT YOU WAITING, OUR DEBRIEFING RAN A BIT LONG.
NO PROBLEM, CAPTAIN.
NAME: DAR KEYIS
SPECIES: HUMAN
HOMEWORLD: CHURBA
COMBAT MISSIONS: 8
THE DELAY IS UNDERSTANDABLE.
NAME: STANDRO JCIR
SPECIES: RODIAN
HOMEWORLD: RODIA
COMBAT MISSIONS: 13
HARDLY NOTICED THE TIME PASS.
NAME: AVAN BERUSS
SPECIES: HUMAN
HOMEWORLD: ILLODIA
COMBAT MISSIONS: 2
BEFORE I LEARNED FRUSTRATION, I LEARNED PATIENCE.
NAME: XARCCE HUWLA
SPECIES: TUNROTH
HOMEWORLD: SALOCH
COMBAT MISSIONS: 23
AVAN, IT SAYS HERE YOU'RE FROM ILLODIA, BUT THE BERUSS FAMILY IS WELL KNOWN ON CORELLIA. YOU ARE RELATED TO DOMAN BERUSS, OUR REP ON THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL ?
SIR, SHE IS MY GREAT AUNT. THE CORELLIAN BERUSSES ARE A BRANCH OF AN ILLODIAN FAMILY. MY FATHER IS ALSO NAMED DOMAN BERUSS, AFTER AN ANCESTOR.
YOUR FATHER WAS AN IMPERIAL SENATOR AND A FRIEND OF BAIL ORGANA, WASN'T HE ?
YES, SIR. I KNEW HIM AS WELL. I WANTED TO JOIN THE REBELLION WITH LEIA, BUT MY FATHER HAD OTHER IDEAS.
HE FEARED IMPERIAL RETRIBUTION ON ILLODIA IF I ACTED.


HIS CAUTION IS UNDERSTANDABLE, AND DOES NOT REFLECT BADLY ON YOU.
THANK YOU, SIR.
LT. JANSON IS DOWN ON THE DECK. HE'LL GET YOU BILLETED AND TAKEN CARE OF.
PERMISSION TO SPEAK PRIVATELY WITH YOU, SIR?
GRANTED. TYCHO, STAY HERE.
AS ORDERED.
"I KNOW SQUADRON'S HISTORY. IT IS GLORIOUS. VICTORY AT YAVIN ..."
"... HEROISM AT HOTH ..."
"... EMPEROR'S DEATH ..."
"... AND YOUR MORE RECENT ADVENTURES..."
...I AM HONORED TO BE HERE, BUT I REQUEST IMMEDIATE TRANSFER.
WHAT?! WHY?
I DO NOT WISH TO DIE AS ROGUE.
NONE OF US DO.
BUT ODDS FAVOR DEATH IN THIS SQUADRON.

I DON'T ASK ANYONE TO DO ANYTHING I WOULDN'T...

I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP...

THEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

YOU LEAD WELL, BUT ALLIANCE THROWS ROGUES AT IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEMS. WERE YOU BAD LEADER, ALL WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE DIED.

BOTH POINTS ARE DEAD ON, WEDGE.

NO SURFACE IMPACT ON THOSE SHOTS.

THEY ONLY ASK US TO DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

AND SOME DAY THEY WILL ASK TOO MUCH.

LET'S HOPE IT'S NOT BEFORE YOUR TRANSFER GOES THROUGH. WELCOME TO ROGUE SQUADRON.

I SHALL REGRET LEAVING, BUT NOT BEING ALIVE TO DO SO. EXCUSE ME, PLEASE. I SHALL FIND LT. JANSON.

DISMISSED.

YOU'RE XARCCE HUWLA, I GUESS. MEET YOUR SQUADRON MATES. PLOURR ILO IS THE LOUD ONE BACK THERE...

JUST FIX THE VECTOR JETS. MY LAST BARREL-ROLL WAS SLUGGISH AND I ALMOST GOT VAPED...

"...FEYLIS ARDELE..."

"...LT. HOBBIE KLIVAN..."

"...IBTISAM."

GOOD HUNTING TO YOU ALL.

YOU'LL BE BUNKING WITH FEYLIS. THERE'S A VACANCY IN HER QUARTERS.

IT WILL BE GOOD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO AGAIN.

YOUR ACCENT. YOU'RE FROM A COREWARD WORLD, COMMENOR?

YES, HOW DID YOU KNOW?

MY FATHER WAS A SENATOR AND I WORKED AS AN AIDE. PICKING UP ON ACCENTS WAS A SKILL WITH USES.

YOUR FATHER GOT YOU AN APPOINTMENT TO THE IMPERIAL NAVAL ACADEMY, THEN?

NO, I LEARNED TO FLY PRIVATELY. I'M QUALIFIED ON A VARIETY OF SHIPS.

OH. I'M JUST CHECKED OUT ON X-WINGS AND TIES.

TIES? I'VE NOT FLOWN THEM, NOT EVEN IN SIM. PERHAPS YOU COULD GUIDE ME THROUGH THE BASICS IN SIM.

SURE, WHENEVER YOU WANT.

I'M DOING NOTHING NOW. HOW ABOUT YOU?

YOU'LL GET PLENTY OF SIM-TIME LATER, AVAN. STOW YOUR GEAR IN HOBBIE'S ROOM AND GET SQUARED AWAY FOR NOW.

FEYLIS, WILL YOU SHOW ME OUR ROOM?

GLADLY. THIS WAY.

LATER THEN, FEYLIS.

PLOURR IS ROUGH ON THE TECHS.

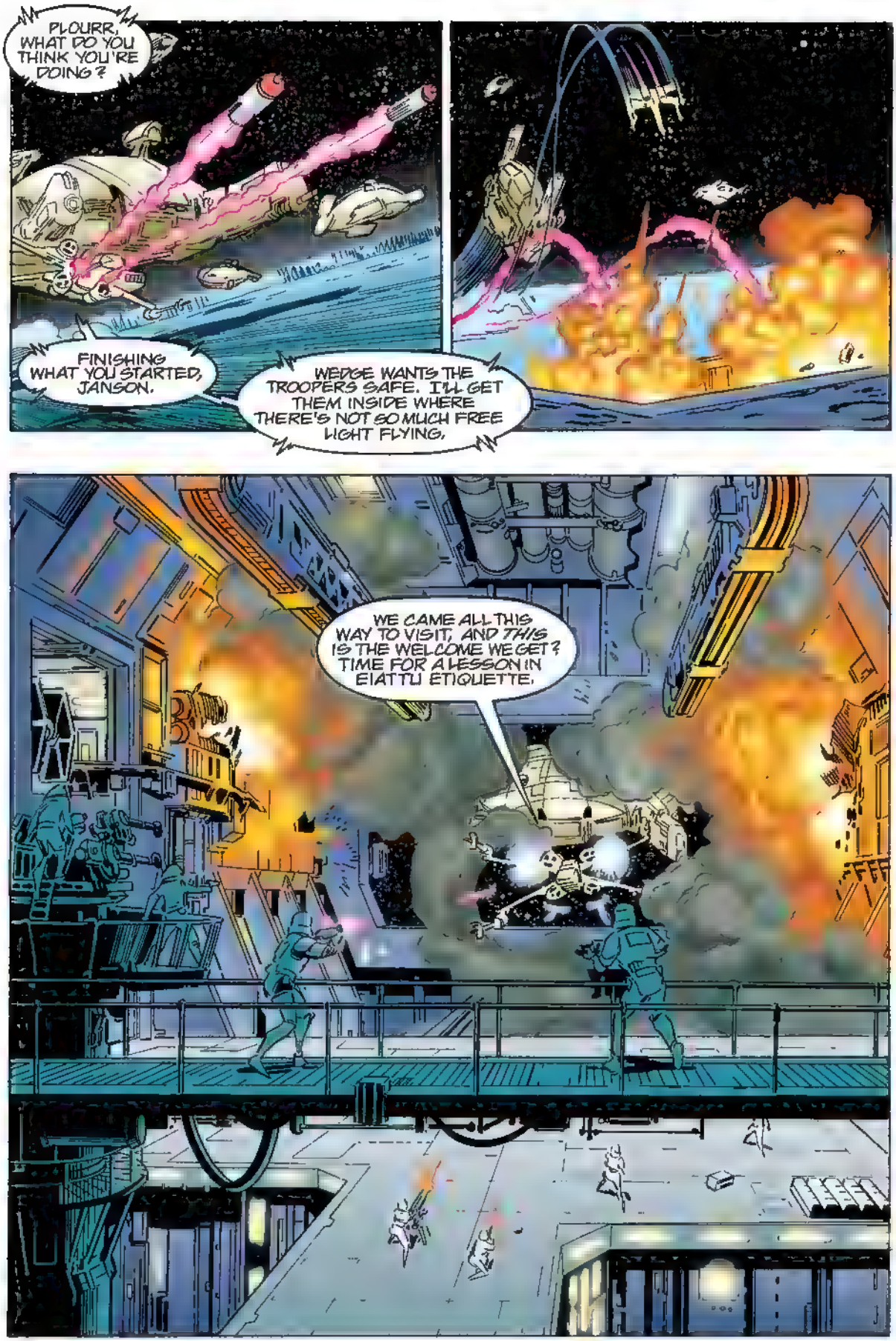
ROUGHER THAN THE IMPS ARE ON HER SHIP.

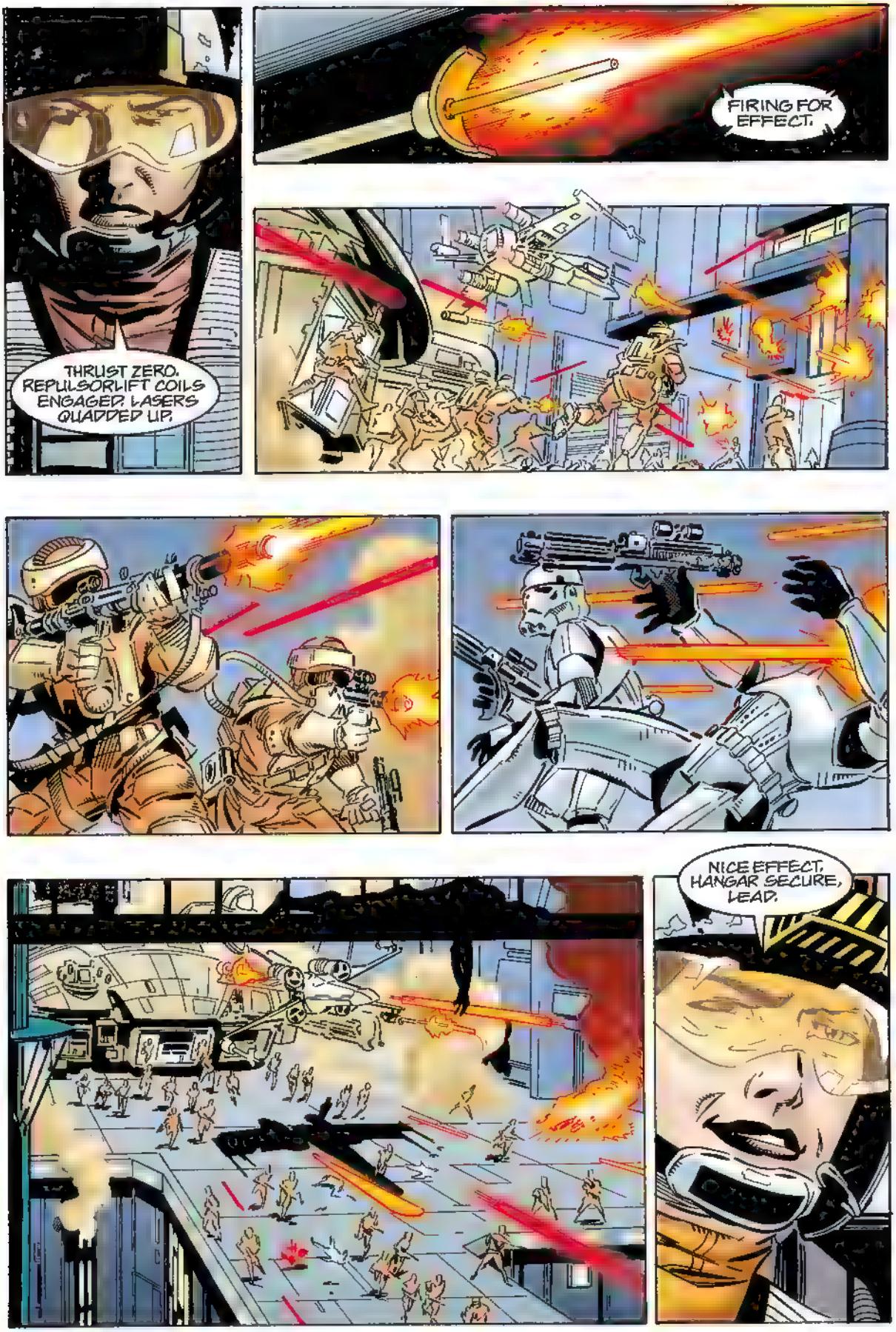
YEAH, IT'S BEEN A WHILE. THEY ALL LOOK GOOD, THOUGH AVAN'S RATHER MISSION-LIGHT.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE THE SQUADRON BACK UP TO FULL STRENGTH.
IF XARCCE IS RIGHT, THAT WON'T TAKE LONG TO CORRECT.
THERE IS A MISSION. YOU WILL BE WORKING WITH COLONEL SALM AND HIS AGGRESSOR WING.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU BOTH, AND TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.
YOUR PEOPLE FLY Y-WINGS, RIGHT?
PLACID WATERS AND HIGH TIDES TO YOU BOTH. YOU ARE PLEASED ROGUE SQUADRON IS AGAIN WHOLE?
YES, SIR, ADMIRAL.
THOUGH WE'RE GUESSING THAT MEANS WE HAVE WORK TO DO.
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM, IS IT?
NO, SIR, BUT I THOUGHT B-WINGS REPLACED Y-WINGS IN MOST MISSION PLANNING.
WERE ALL SEAS CALM, THIS WOULD BE TRUE. WE HAVE A MISSION WHERE SPEED DEMANDS WE USE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE NOW.
THE MISSION WAS PLANNED AND WE'VE BEEN SIMMING IT, BUT IT WAS A LOW PRIORITY UNTIL NOW.
SEEMS XARCCE MIGHT BE A PROPHET.
WHERE ARE WE GOING THAT THINGS ARE SO URGENT?
BRENTAAL IV.
THAT'S FAST. WE WERE JUST THERE.

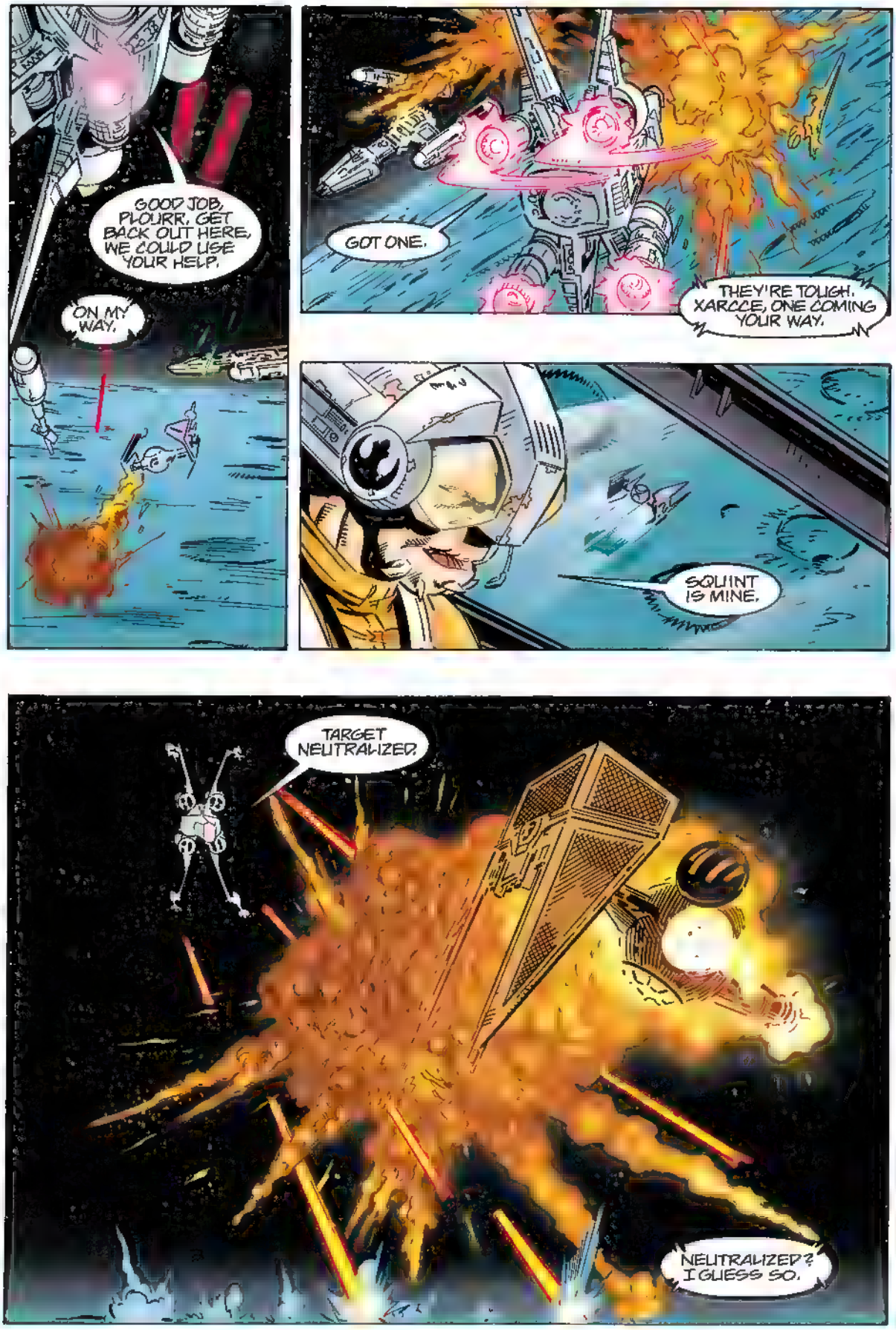
IT MIGHT SEEM PREMATURE, BUT YOUR DATA CINCHED IT.
WE HAVE HAD BRENTAAL IV AS A TARGET FOR MONTHS. PESTAGE HAS NOW VOWED TO PROTECT IT AT ALL COSTS, SO WE MUST GO QUICKLY BEFORE IT CAN BE REINFORCED.
DON'T WE FARE BETTER ATTACKING PLACES THE IMPS ARE *NOT* VOWING TO HOLD?
WE MIGHT WIN AND EMBARRASS THEM, OR JUNK A LOT OF SHIPS IN THE ATTEMPT.
YOU WOULD BE CORRECT, BUT PESTAGE HAS LEFT ADMIRAL ION ISOTO TO DEFEND THE WORLD.
ISOTO THE INDECISIVE? THAT'S INSANE. BRENTAAL IV IS TOO VALUABLE TO DEFEND SO POORLY.
HEY, WEDGE, WITH ISOTO THERE WE DON'T REALLY NEED THE Y-WINGS, DO WE?
YOU WILL NEED THEM, AND THE OTHERS WHO GO IN WITH YOU. SIMSOFTS ARE ALREADY BEING SET UP FOR YOUR PEOPLE.
YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUR WEEKS TRAINING, BUT WE'LL GO IN TWO.
AS ORDERED, ADMIRAL. WE'LL GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
TWO WEEKS IS BETTER THAN NOTHING, BUT HOW MUCH BETTER WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE.

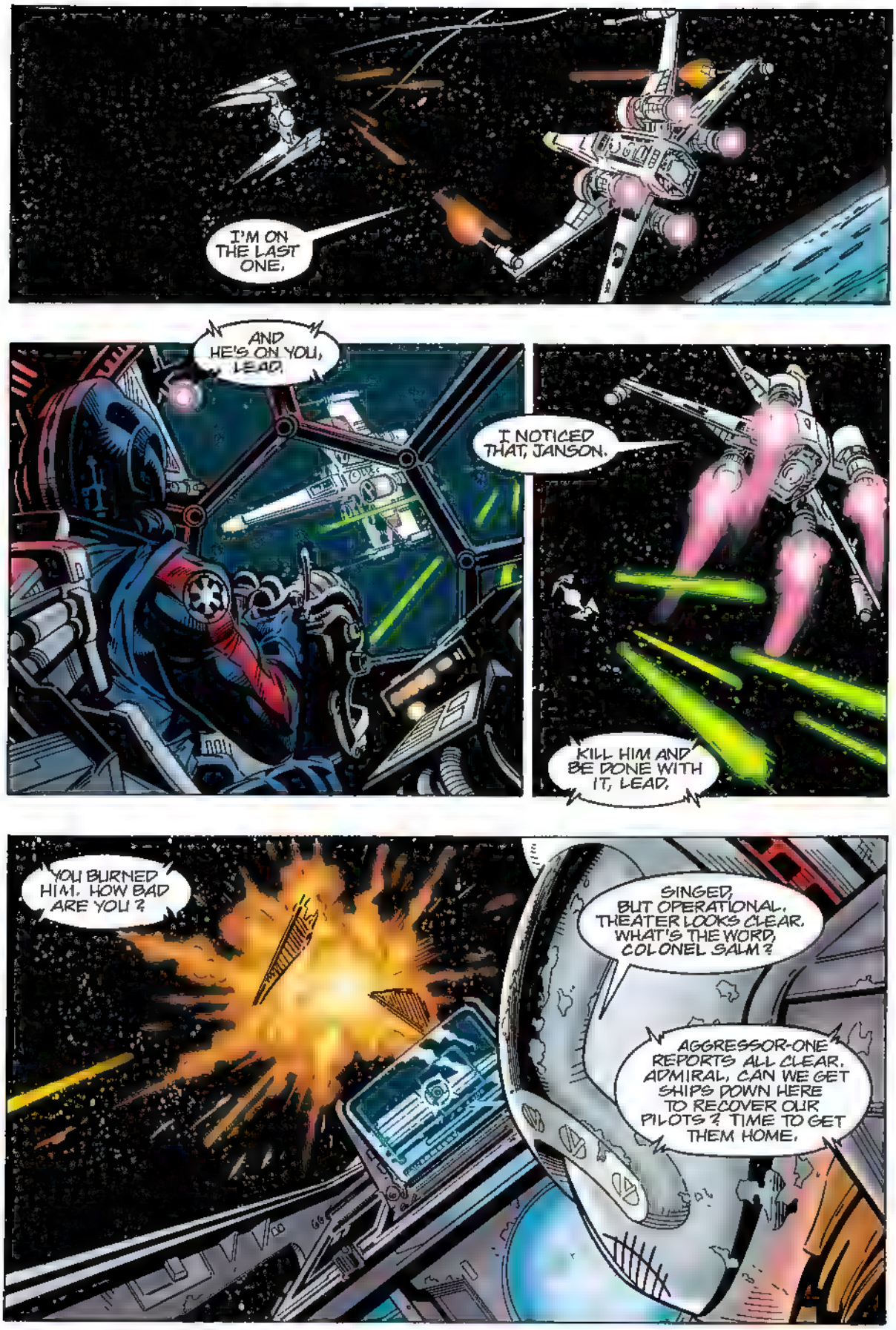
BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, CONTESTED SPACE
ISOTO'S BIG SHIPS ARE TOO FAR AWAY TO INTERFERE. YOU ARE CLEAR TO ENGAGE ENEMY, ROGUE LEADER.
I COPY, HOBBIE, TIGHTEN IT UP AND TARGET THE SQUINTS.
ROGUE LEADER, A LITTLE HELP ON THE FIGHTER SCREEN!
SQUINTS ARE GOOD, WEDGE. REAL GOOD.

WE'RE PAID TO BE BETTER.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU GOT PAID, PLOURR?
HOBBIE, GET CLEAR. PLOURR, COVER THE ASSAULT SHUTTLES GOING IN.
AS ORDERED, LEAD, AVAN, FEYLIS, IBTISAM, ON ME.
CAN'T GET CLEAR, WEDGE.
I'M HIT. LOST ENGINES TWO AND FOUR. I'M ——
HOBBIE! PUNCH OUT! PUNCH OUT!
THE SQUINT'S GONE. SITHSPAWN! IT WAS A MESSY CRASH, WEDGE!
WAS HOBBIE CLEAR?
I HOPE SO.


PLOURR, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
FINISHING WHAT YOU STARTED, JANSON.
WEDGE WANTS THE TROOPERS SAFE. I'LL GET THEM INSIDE WHERE THERE'S NOT SO MUCH FREE LIGHT FLYING.
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO VISIT, AND *THIS* IS THE WELCOME WE GET? TIME FOR A LESSON IN EIATTU ETIQUETTE.


THRUST ZERO. REPULSORLIFT COILS ENGAGED. LASERS QUADDED UP.
FIRING FOR EFFECT.
NICE EFFECT. HANGAR SECURE, LEAD.


GOOD JOB, PLOURR. GET BACK OUT HERE. WE COULD USE YOUR HELP.
ON MY WAY.
GOT ONE.
THEY'RE TOUGH. XARCCE, ONE COMING YOUR WAY.
SQUINT IS MINE.
TARGET NEUTRALIZED.
NEUTRALIZED? I GUESS SO.


I'M ON THE LAST ONE.
AND HE'S ON YOU, LEAD.
I NOTICED THAT, JANSON.
KILL HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT, LEAD.
YOU BURNED HIM. HOW BAD ARE YOU?
SINGED, BUT OPERATIONAL. THEATER LOOKS CLEAR. WHAT'S THE WORD, COLONEL SALM?
AGGRESSOR-ONE REPORTS ALL CLEAR, ADMIRAL. CAN WE GET SHIPS DOWN HERE TO RECOVER OUR PILOTS? TIME TO GET THEM HOME.

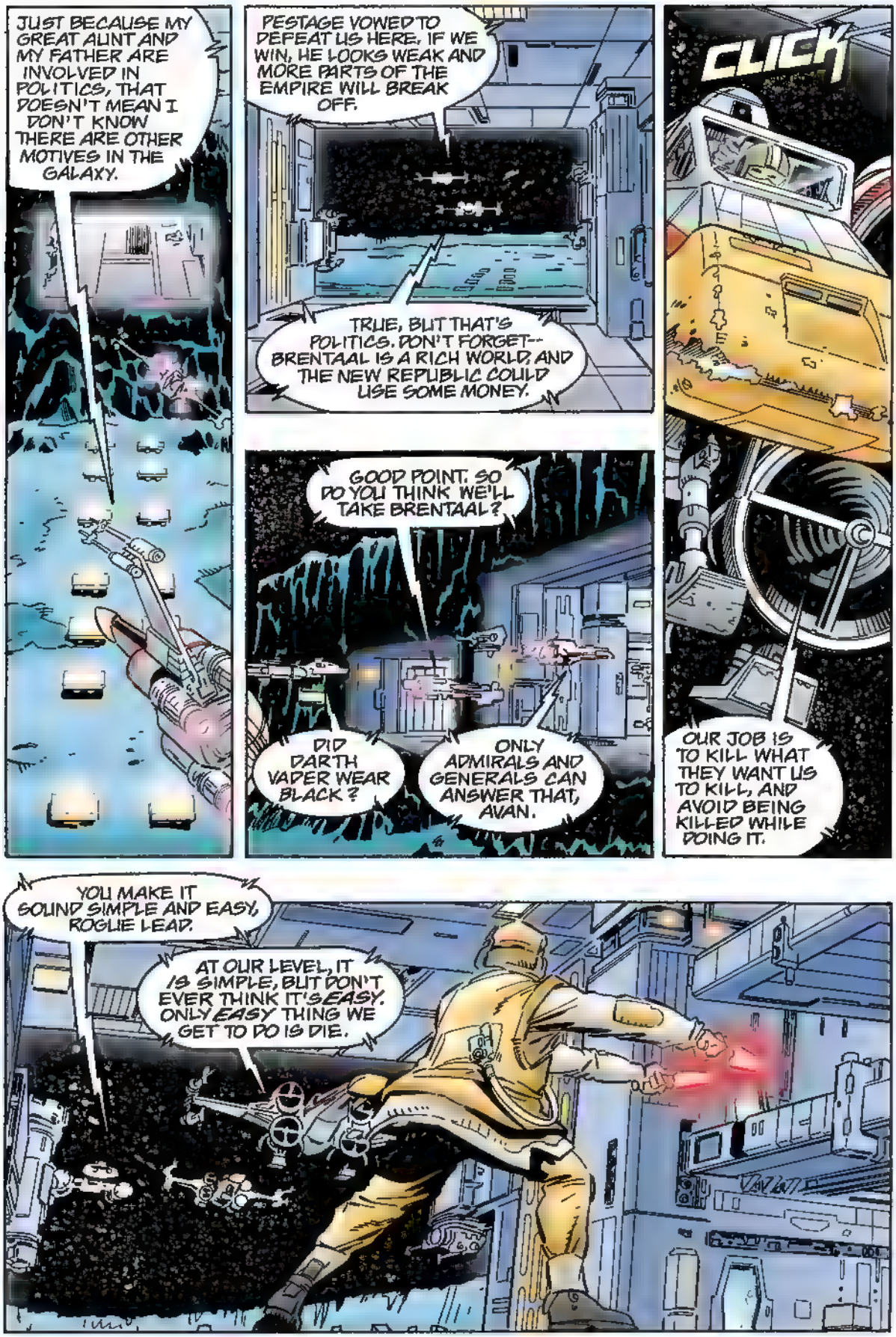
REBEL BASE DELTA-NINE
HOBBIE'S GOING TO BE FINE. ANOTHER TWELVE HOURS IN THE BACTA TANK AND HE'LL BE GOOD-TO-GO.
MUST BE THE DUNKING HE GOT DURING THE HOTH EVACUATION. I THINK HE LIKES THAT STUFF.
SAYS IT KEEPS HIS SKIN SOFT. HE SHOULD DO ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE BACTA CARTEL.
MIGHT BE A SAFER OCCUPATION THAN FLYING.
DO YOU MIND IF I USE THE TABLE FOR A MOMENT?
SURE. I WAS GOING TO LET THE TUNROTH WIN, ANYWAY.
WOOKIEES LET TUNROTHS WIN, TOO.
REMEMBER THE SQUINTS?
HARD TO FORGET.
GENERAL CRACKEN'S INTEL ANALYSTS HAD A RUN AT THEM.
CLICK!

I'M SO GLAD HIS SPOOKS FOUND SOMETHING USEFUL TO DO WITH THEIR TIME.
HIS SPOOKS SAY THE MARKINGS MEAN THESE SQUINTS WERE FROM THE 181ST IMPERIAL FIGHTER GROUP.
THE 181ST, THAT'S BARON FEL'S UNIT, ISN'T IT?
WHO'S BARON FEL, AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?
FEL IS THE BEST IMPERIAL PILOT ALIVE.
WE CAN CHANGE THAT.
PERHAPS, PLOURR, PERHAPS...
BUT NOT BEFORE MOST OF US JOIN HOBBIE... OR BIGGS DARKLIGHTER.

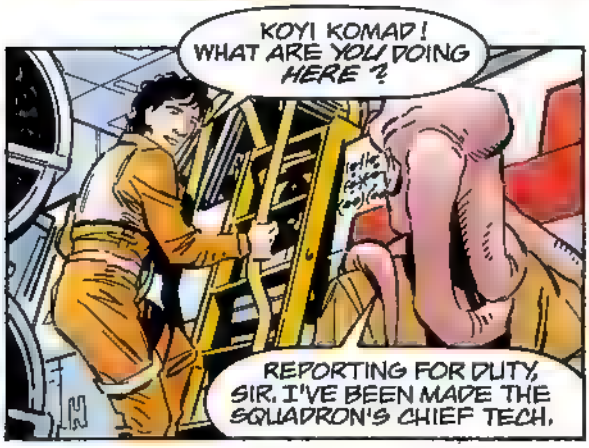
CORUSCANT, IMPERIAL PALACE.
YOU SENT THEM TO BRENTAAL TO DIE.
I SENT THEM TO BRENTAAL TO PREVENT A REBEL INVASION. THEY FAILED. ROGUE SQUADRON KILLED THEM.
THERE WERE OTHERS YOU COULD HAVE SENT. OTHERS WHO WERE BETTER.
THEY WERE YOUR PETS, YOU WILL AVENGE THEM. WEDGE'S PRESENCE WON'T BE A PROBLEM, WILL IT?
A PROBLEM? NO, NEVER. HAD YOU ORDERED ME TO DESTROY THE ROGUES, I WOULD HAVE.
THINK OF REVENGE AS AN EXTRA MOTIVATOR.
SAVE YOUR GAMES FOR PESTAGE, ISARD. I KNOW MY DUTY. I WILL DO IT.
ROGUE SQUADRON WILL DIE.

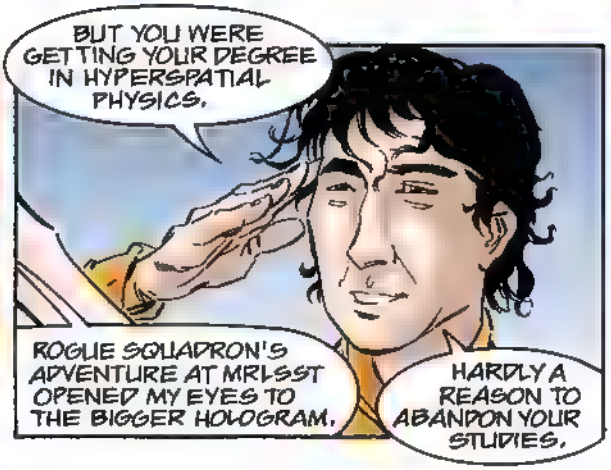
BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, CONTESTED SPACE
MY SCANS ARE CLEAN, ROGUE LEAD.
I AM NEGATIVE FOR IMP-TERLOPERS.
YOU'RE NEGATIVE FOR HUMOR TOO, DELICE. LOTTA IMP METAL ORBITING BRENTAAL IV.
TRIM THE CHATTER. I COPY YOUR REPORT, SCOUT ONE. I'M CLEAR, TOO.
LET'S TAKE THIS PATROL HOME.

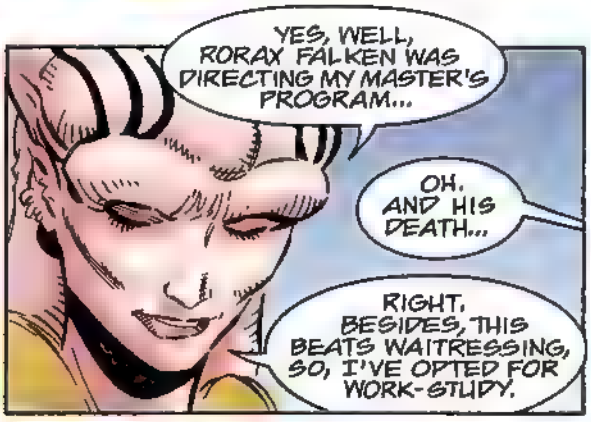
I'M SURPRISED THE IMPS HAVEN'T SCOURED US OFF THIS MOON. THEY'VE NOT EVEN BOTHERED OUR SUPPLY CONVOYS.
THE IMPS FEEL VULNERABLE TO SNUBFIGHTERS, AVAN, SO THEY'LL WAIT FOR TIES TO SCREEN THEM. BESIDES...
...THE IMPS KNOW THAT TO HAVE US ENGAGE IN A CONVENTIONAL FIGHT LEAVES US OPEN TO BEING HURT.
THEY LEARNED HOW STUPID THAT IDEA WAS AT ENDOR, ANTILLES.
WE *DID* GET HURT AT ENDOR, ACE. WEDGE MAY HAVE BLOWN THE DEATH STAR WITH THE *FALCON'S* HELP, BUT OUR FLEET WAS HAMMERED.
YEAH, BUT WE WON.
IF YOU'D BEEN THERE, YOU'D ALSO KNOW WHAT WE LOST.
BOTH SIDES WANT TO USE BRENTAAL TO SHOW ENDOR WAS A FLUKE, AND THAT THEY'VE RECOVERED.
AND BRENTAAL IV IS A KEY TO THE BORMEA SECTOR, WHICH WE WANT SINCE MON MOTHMA'S HOMEWORLD CHANDRILA IS HERE.
AMONG OTHER REASONS.

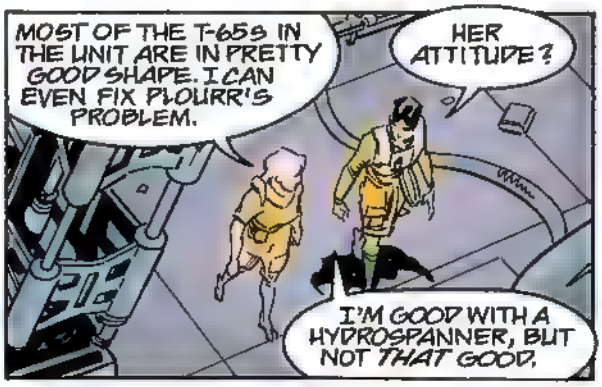

JUST BECAUSE MY GREAT AUNT AND MY FATHER ARE INVOLVED IN POLITICS, THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T KNOW THERE ARE OTHER MOTIVES IN THE GALAXY.
PESTAGE VOWED TO DEFEAT US HERE. IF WE WIN, HE LOOKS WEAK AND MORE PARTS OF THE EMPIRE WILL BREAK OFF.
TRUE, BUT THAT'S POLITICS. DON'T FORGET-- BRENTAAL IS A RICH WORLD, AND THE NEW REPUBLIC COULD USE SOME MONEY.
CLICK
GOOD POINT. SO DO YOU THINK WE'LL TAKE BRENTAAL?
DID DARTH VADER WEAR BLACK?
ONLY ADMIRALS AND GENERALS CAN ANSWER THAT, AVAN.
OUR JOB IS TO KILL WHAT THEY WANT US TO KILL, AND AVOID BEING KILLED WHILE DOING IT.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND SIMPLE AND EASY, ROGUE LEAD.
AT OUR LEVEL, IT IS SIMPLE, BUT DON'T EVER THINK IT'S *EASY*. ONLY *EASY* THING WE GET TO DO IS DIE.

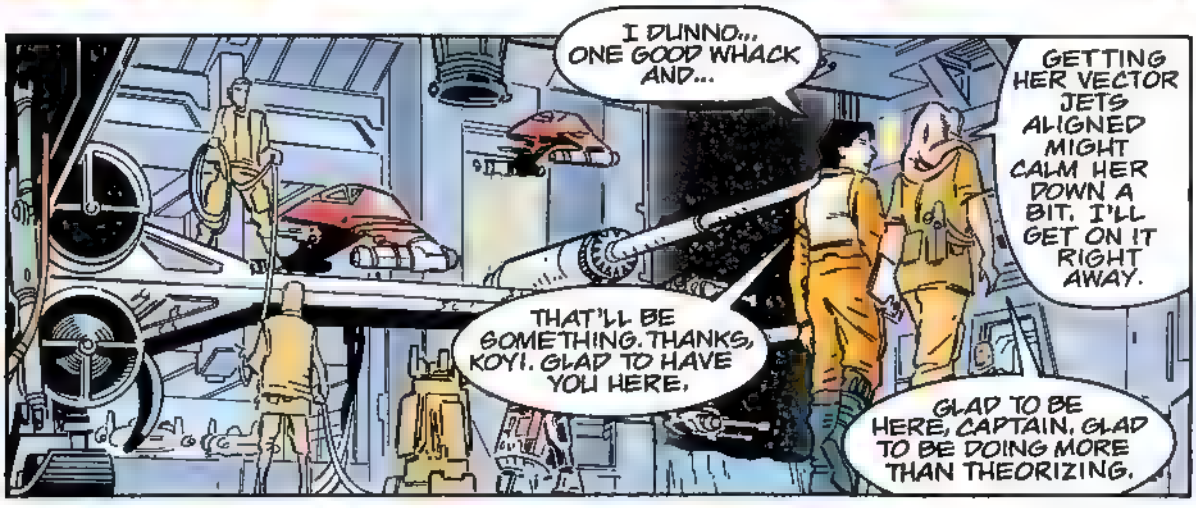
WHY IS IT THAT REPORTS FILED AFTER UNEVENTFUL PATROLS TAKE UP AS MUCH MEMORY AS THOSE WHERE SOMETHING HAPPENED?
A QUESTION ONLY CAPTAINS AND COMMANDERS CAN ANSWER, SIR.
SOMEDAY YOU'LL REGRET BEING SO GLIB, FLIGHT-OFFICER BERUSS.
I HOPE SO, SIR. SEE YOU IN THE READY ROOM.

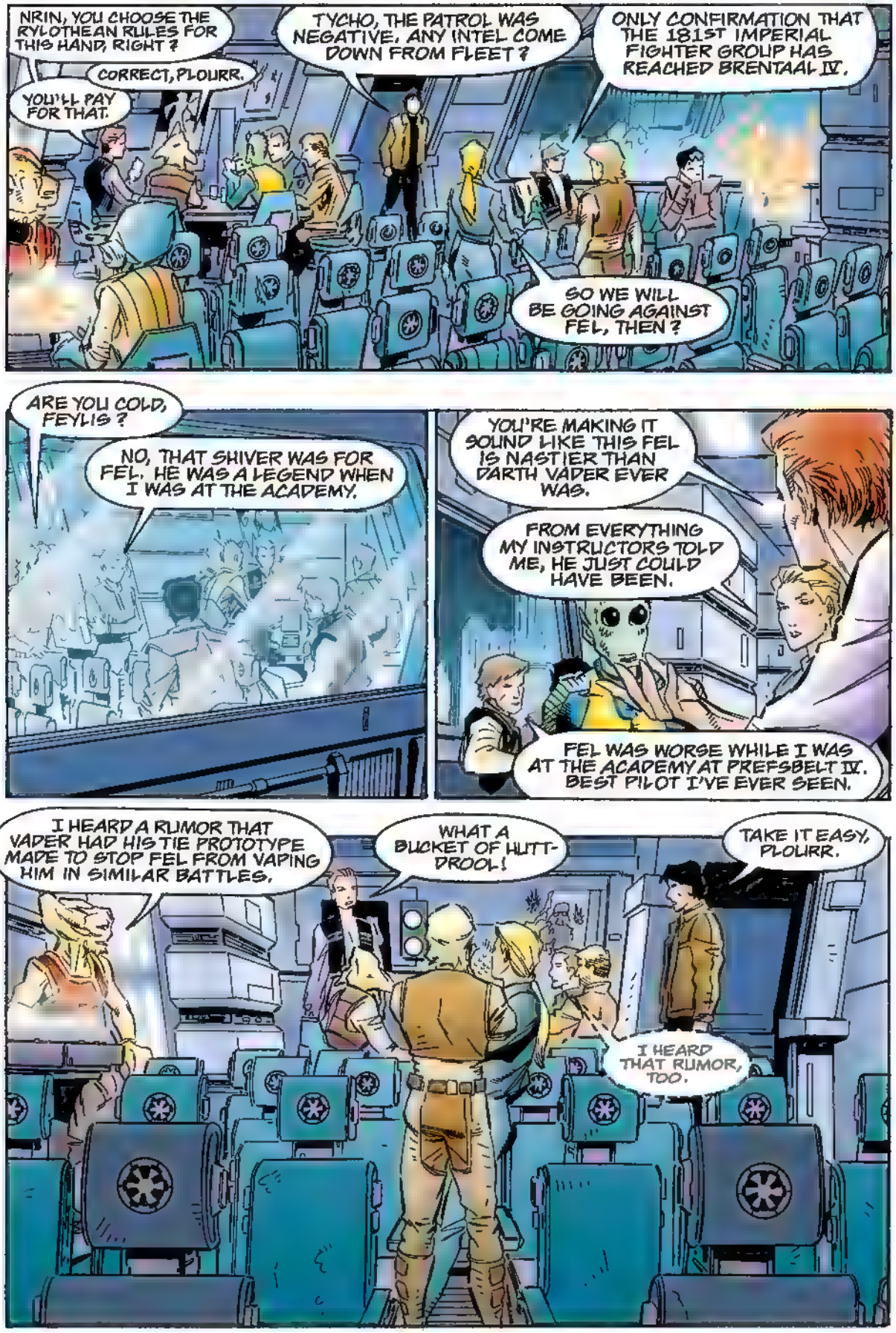

KOYI KOMAD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR. I'VE BEEN MADE THE SQUADRON'S CHIEF TECH.

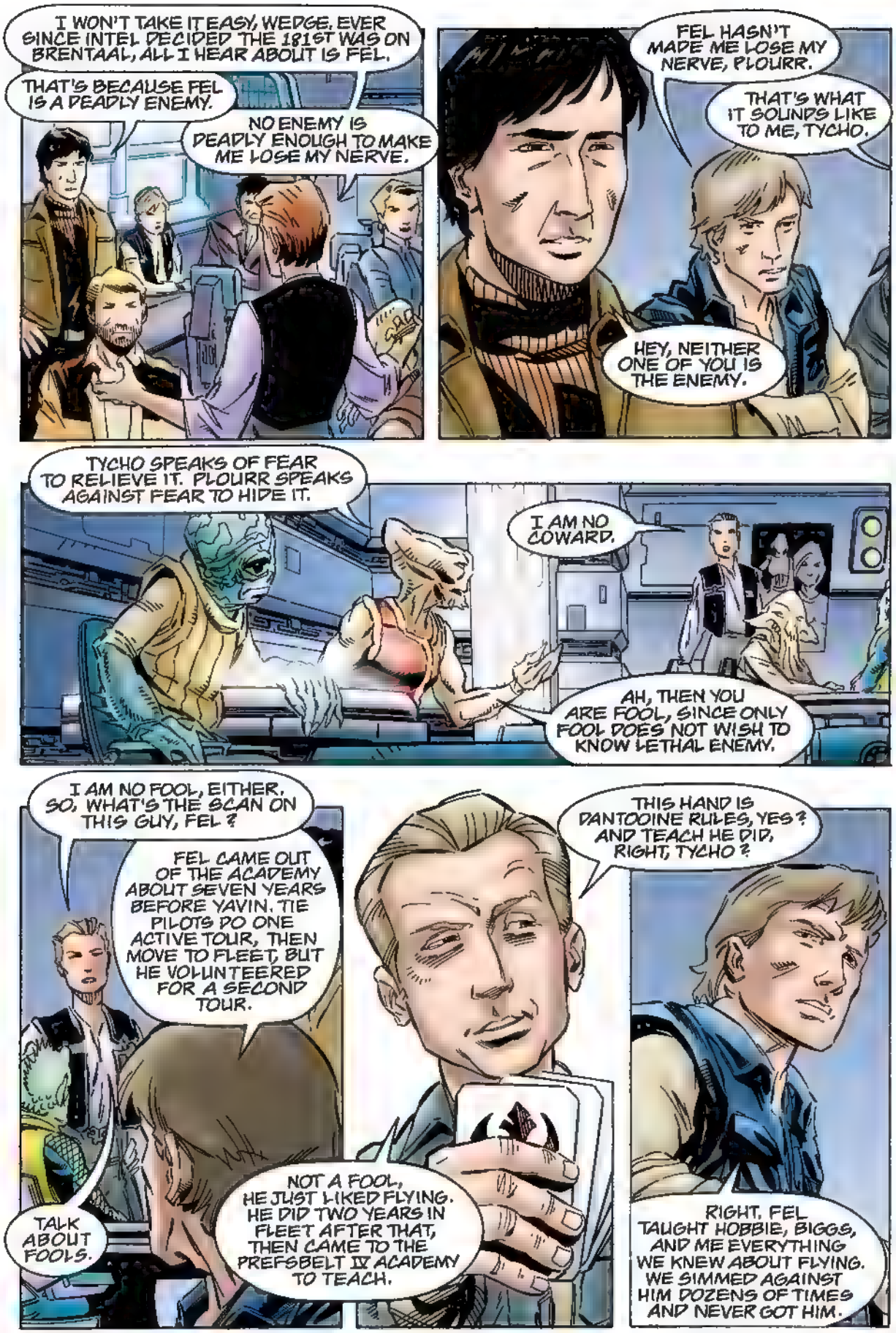

BUT YOU WERE GETTING YOUR DEGREE IN HYPERSPATIAL PHYSICS.
ROGUE SQUADRON'S ADVENTURE AT MRISST OPENED MY EYES TO THE BIGGER HOLOGRAM.
HARDLY A REASON TO ABANDON YOUR STUDIES.


YES, WELL, RORAX FALKEN WAS DIRECTING MY MASTER'S PROGRAM...
OH. AND HIS DEATH...
RIGHT. BESIDES, THIS BEATS WAITRESSING, SO, I'VE OPTED FOR WORK-STUDY.


MOST OF THE T-65S IN THE UNIT ARE IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE. I CAN EVEN FIX FLOURR'S PROBLEM.
HER ATTITUDE?
I'M GOOD WITH A HYDROSPANNER, BUT NOT THAT GOOD.


I DUNNO... ONE GOOD WHACK AND...
GETTING HER VECTOR JETS ALIGNED MIGHT CALM HER DOWN A BIT. I'LL GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY.
THAT'LL BE SOMETHING. THANKS, KOYI. GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.
GLAD TO BE HERE, CAPTAIN. GLAD TO BE DOING MORE THAN THEORIZING.


NRIN, YOU CHOOSE THE RYLOTHEAN RULES FOR THIS HAND, RIGHT?
CORRECT, PLOURR.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT.
TYCHO, THE PATROL WAS NEGATIVE. ANY INTEL COME DOWN FROM FLEET?
ONLY CONFIRMATION THAT THE 181ST IMPERIAL FIGHTER GROUP HAS REACHED BRENTAAL IV.
SO WE WILL BE GOING AGAINST FEL, THEN?
ARE YOU COLD, FEYLIS?
NO, THAT SHIVER WAS FOR FEL. HE WAS A LEGEND WHEN I WAS AT THE ACADEMY.
YOU'RE MAKING IT SOUND LIKE THIS FEL IS NASTIER THAN DARTH VADER EVER WAS.
FROM EVERYTHING MY INSTRUCTORS TOLD ME, HE JUST COULD HAVE BEEN.
FEL WAS WORSE WHILE I WAS AT THE ACADEMY AT PREFSBELT IV. BEST PILOT I'VE EVER SEEN.
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT VADER HAD HIS TIE PROTOTYPE MADE TO STOP FEL FROM VAPING HIM IN SIMILAR BATTLES.
WHAT A BUCKET OF HUTT-DROOL!
TAKE IT EASY, PLOURR.
I HEARD THAT RUMOR, TOO.


I WON'T TAKE IT EASY, WEDGE. EVER SINCE INTEL DECIDED THE 181ST WAS ON BRENTAAL, ALL I HEAR ABOUT IS FEL.
THAT'S BECAUSE FEL IS A DEADLY ENEMY.
NO ENEMY IS DEADLY ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LOSE MY NERVE.
FEL HASN'T MADE ME LOSE MY NERVE, PLOURR.
THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE TO ME, TYCHO.
HEY, NEITHER ONE OF YOU IS THE ENEMY.
TYCHO SPEAKS OF FEAR TO RELIEVE IT. PLOURR SPEAKS AGAINST FEAR TO HIDE IT.
I AM NO COWARD.
AH, THEN YOU ARE FOOL, SINCE ONLY FOOL DOES NOT WISH TO KNOW LETHAL ENEMY.
I AM NO FOOL, EITHER. SO, WHAT'S THE SCAN ON THIS GUY, FEL?
FEL CAME OUT OF THE ACADEMY ABOUT SEVEN YEARS BEFORE YAVIN. TIE PILOTS DO ONE ACTIVE TOUR, THEN MOVE TO FLEET, BUT HE VOLUNTEERED FOR A SECOND TOUR.
TALK ABOUT FOOLS.
NOT A FOOL, HE JUST LIKED FLYING. HE DID TWO YEARS IN FLEET AFTER THAT, THEN CAME TO THE PREFSBELT IV ACADEMY TO TEACH.
THIS HAND IS DANTOOINE RULES, YES? AND TEACH HE DID, RIGHT, TYCHO?
RIGHT. FEL TAUGHT HOBBIE, BIGGS, AND ME EVERYTHING WE KNEW ABOUT FLYING. WE SIMMED AGAINST HIM DOZENS OF TIMES AND NEVER GOT HIM.

YOU NEVER GOT HIM?
NEVER?
NOPE. NEVER.
DON'T I HAVE SOME LEAVE COMING?
SEEMS THAT SHIVER IS CATCHING.
CAPTAIN ANTILLES? ABOUT MY TRANSFER...
WHEN BIGGS AND I PULLED OFF THE RAND ECLIPTIC MUTINY, FEL GOT BOUNCED FROM THE ACADEMY AND BACK TO TIE DUTY.
BECAUSE OF HIS DISGRACE, HE WASN'T GIVEN THE HONOR OF BEING ASSIGNED TO THE DEATH STAR. HE WAS SENT TO THE 181ST.
WHILE WE WERE AT YAVIN, THE 181ST HIT ORD BINIIR.
RIGHT, THEN THEY PERFORMED ALL SORTS OF OPS AGAINST THE REBELLION. THEY WERE AT DERRA IV, HOTH, AND ENDOR.
AND HE'S STILL FLYING NOW?
AND HE'S DOWN ON BRENTAAL IV.
BUT, WAIT, THAT MEANS HE'S BEEN IN IMP SERVICE FOR TEN YEARS, 8 OF THEM FLYING TIES AND 6 OF THOSE YEARS IN COMBAT!
AND YOUR POINT IS?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
NOT IF YOU'RE AS GOOD AS FEL IS.
HE'S THAT GOOD, PLOURR, AND THEN SOME.

VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR

"AS YOU CAN SEE, BARON FEL, OUR SUPPLEMENTARY DEFENSES ARE COMING ALONG NICELY."

SOME LOCALS PROTESTED. I SAID IRRIGATING ON THIS WORLD WAS A WASTE OF WATER.

THE INDIGS ARE FILTHY RICH. LET THEM IMPORT THEIR FOOD, I SAY.

HARDENED MISSILE SITES, A LAUNCH BUNKER FOR MY FIGHTERS... IMPRESSIVE.

OF COURSE, AS YOU WANTED. BUT COME AWAY FROM THERE. YOUR INVENTORY IS... TEDIOUS.

THIS WORLD HAS SO MUCH TO OFFER, FEL, YOU SHOULD PARTAKE OF ITS TREASURES BEFORE THE REBELS UNLEASH THEIR WRATH.

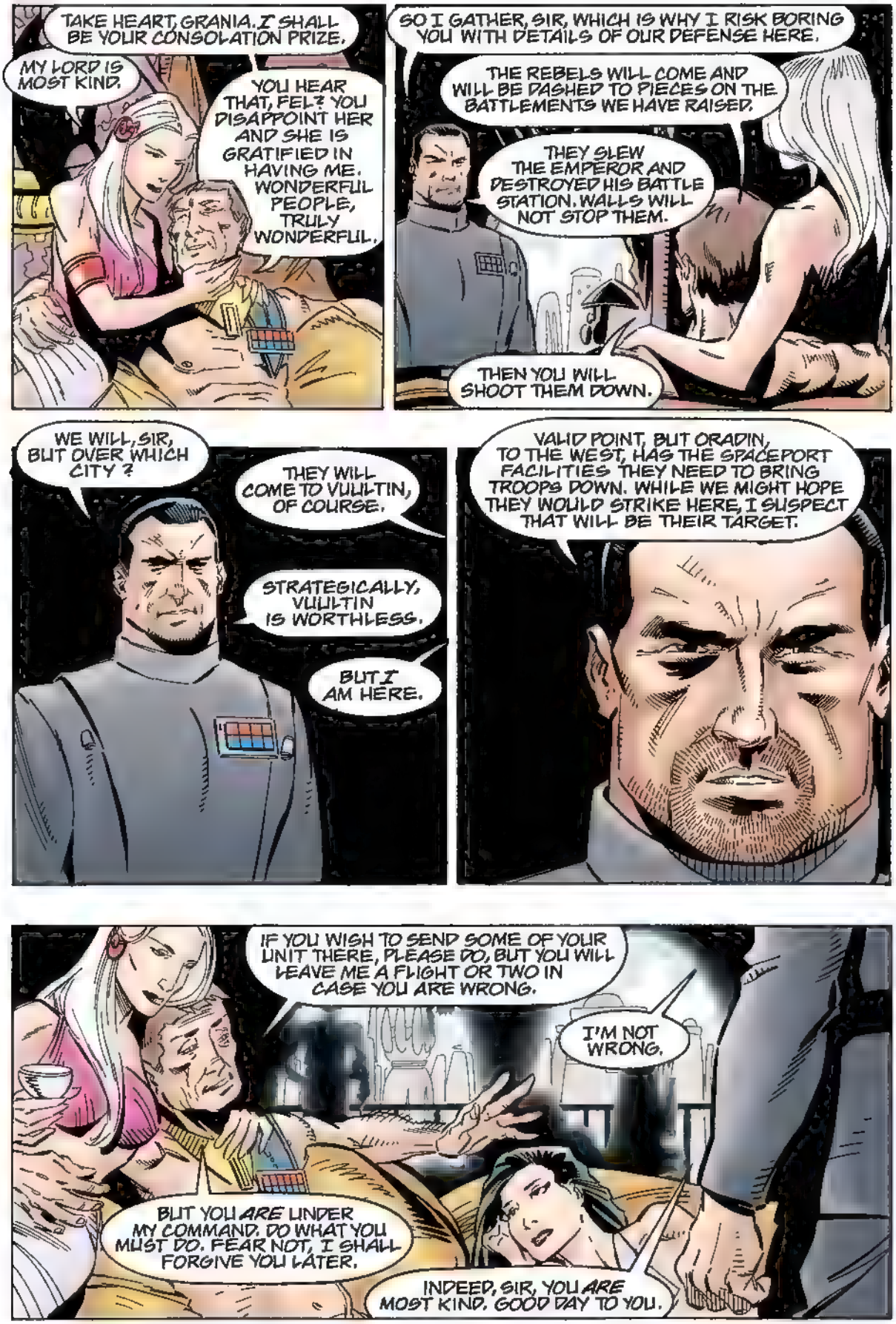
I HAD THOUGHT THE PURPOSE OF MY BEING HERE WAS TO CURB THE REBEL WRATH.

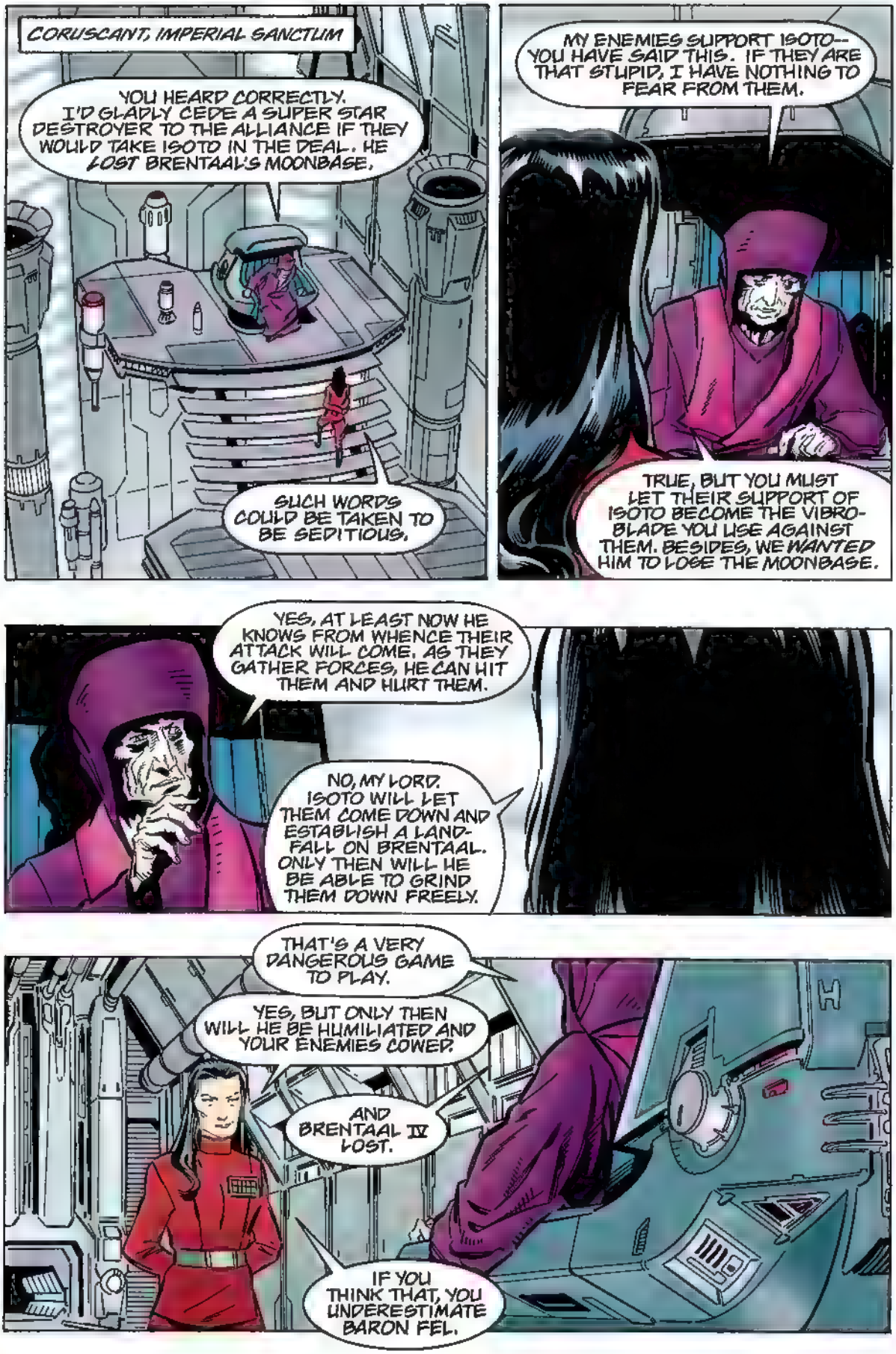
OF COURSE, BUT THERE WILL BE TIME FOR THAT LATER. FOR NOW, YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF PERHAPS YOU SHOULD FIND *GRANIA* ENTERTAINING.

NO DISRESPECT INTENDED, BUT MY WIFE WOULD NOT APPRECIATE MY INDULGING IN BRENTAAL'S HOSPITALITY.

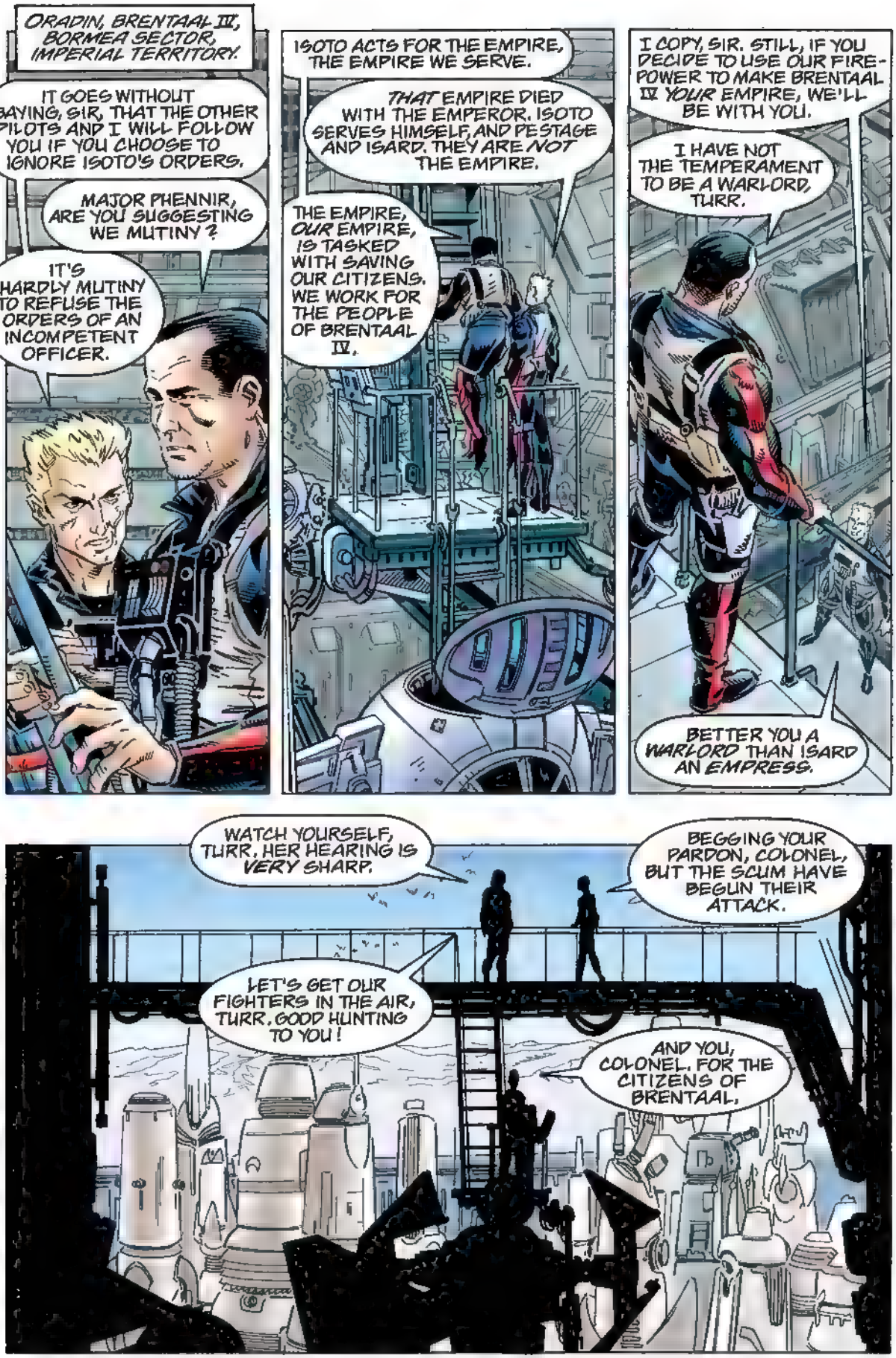
BUT I WOULD KNOW, SIR.

NEITHER WOULD MINE, WHICH IS WHY SHE IS ON CORUSCANT. NO ONE NEED KNOW, MY DEAR FEL.

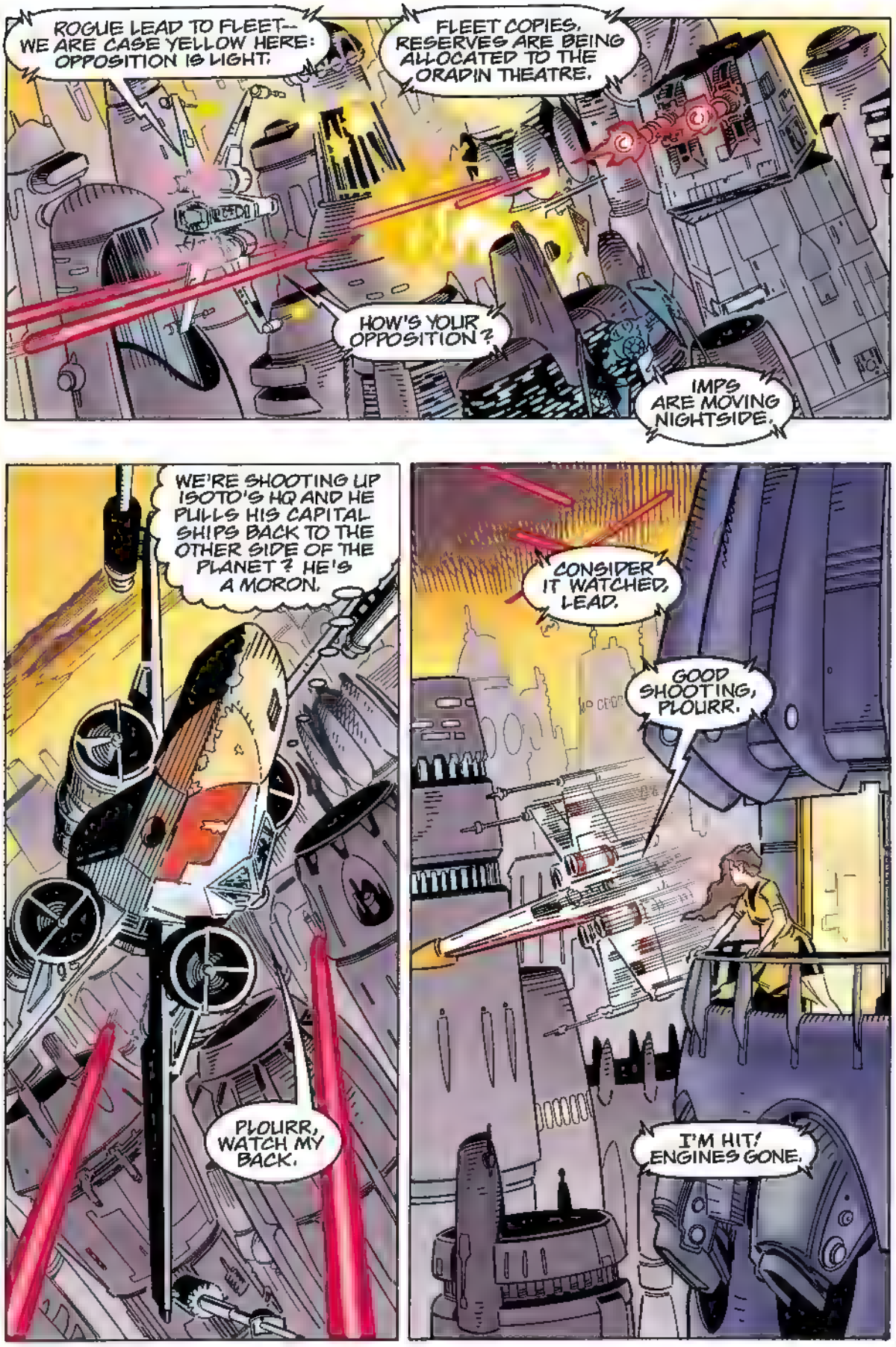

TAKE HEART, GRANIA. I SHALL BE YOUR CONSOLATION PRIZE.
MY LORD IS MOST KIND.
YOU HEAR THAT, FEL? YOU DISAPPOINT HER AND SHE IS GRATIFIED IN HAVING ME. WONDERFUL PEOPLE, TRULY WONDERFUL.
SO I GATHER, SIR, WHICH IS WHY I RISK BORING YOU WITH DETAILS OF OUR DEFENSE HERE.
THE REBELS WILL COME AND WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES ON THE BATTLEMENTS WE HAVE RAISED.
THEY SLEW THE EMPEROR AND DESTROYED HIS BATTLE STATION. WALLS WILL NOT STOP THEM.
THEN YOU WILL SHOOT THEM DOWN.
WE WILL, SIR, BUT OVER WHICH CITY ?
THEY WILL COME TO VUULTIN, OF COURSE.
STRATEGICALLY, VUULTIN IS WORTHLESS.
BUT I AM HERE.
VALID POINT, BUT ORADIN, TO THE WEST, HAS THE SPACEPORT FACILITIES THEY NEED TO BRING TROOPS DOWN. WHILE WE MIGHT HOPE THEY WOULD STRIKE HERE, I SUSPECT THAT WILL BE THEIR TARGET.
IF YOU WISH TO SEND SOME OF YOUR UNIT THERE, PLEASE DO, BUT YOU WILL LEAVE ME A FLIGHT OR TWO IN CASE YOU ARE WRONG.
I'M NOT WRONG.
BUT YOU *ARE* UNDER MY COMMAND. DO WHAT YOU MUST DO. FEAR NOT, I SHALL FORGIVE YOU LATER.
INDEED, SIR, YOU *ARE* MOST KIND. GOOD DAY TO YOU.


CORUSCANT, IMPERIAL SANCTUM
YOU HEARD CORRECTLY. I'D GLADLY CEDE A SUPER STAR DESTROYER TO THE ALLIANCE IF THEY WOULD TAKE ISOTO IN THE DEAL. HE LOST BRENTAAL'S MOONBASE.
SUCH WORDS COULD BE TAKEN TO BE SEDITIOUS.
MY ENEMIES SUPPORT ISOTO-- YOU HAVE SAID THIS. IF THEY ARE THAT STUPID, I HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM THEM.
TRUE, BUT YOU MUST LET THEIR SUPPORT OF ISOTO BECOME THE VIBRO-BLADE YOU USE AGAINST THEM. BESIDES, WE WANTED HIM TO LOSE THE MOONBASE.
YES, AT LEAST NOW HE KNOWS FROM WHENCE THEIR ATTACK WILL COME. AS THEY GATHER FORCES, HE CAN HIT THEM AND HURT THEM.
NO, MY LORD. ISOTO WILL LET THEM COME DOWN AND ESTABLISH A LAND-FALL ON BRENTAAL. ONLY THEN WILL HE BE ABLE TO GRIND THEM DOWN FREELY.
THAT'S A VERY DANGEROUS GAME TO PLAY.
YES, BUT ONLY THEN WILL HE BE HUMILIATED AND YOUR ENEMIES COWED.
AND BRENTAAL IV LOST.
IF YOU THINK THAT, YOU UNDERESTIMATE BARON FEL.

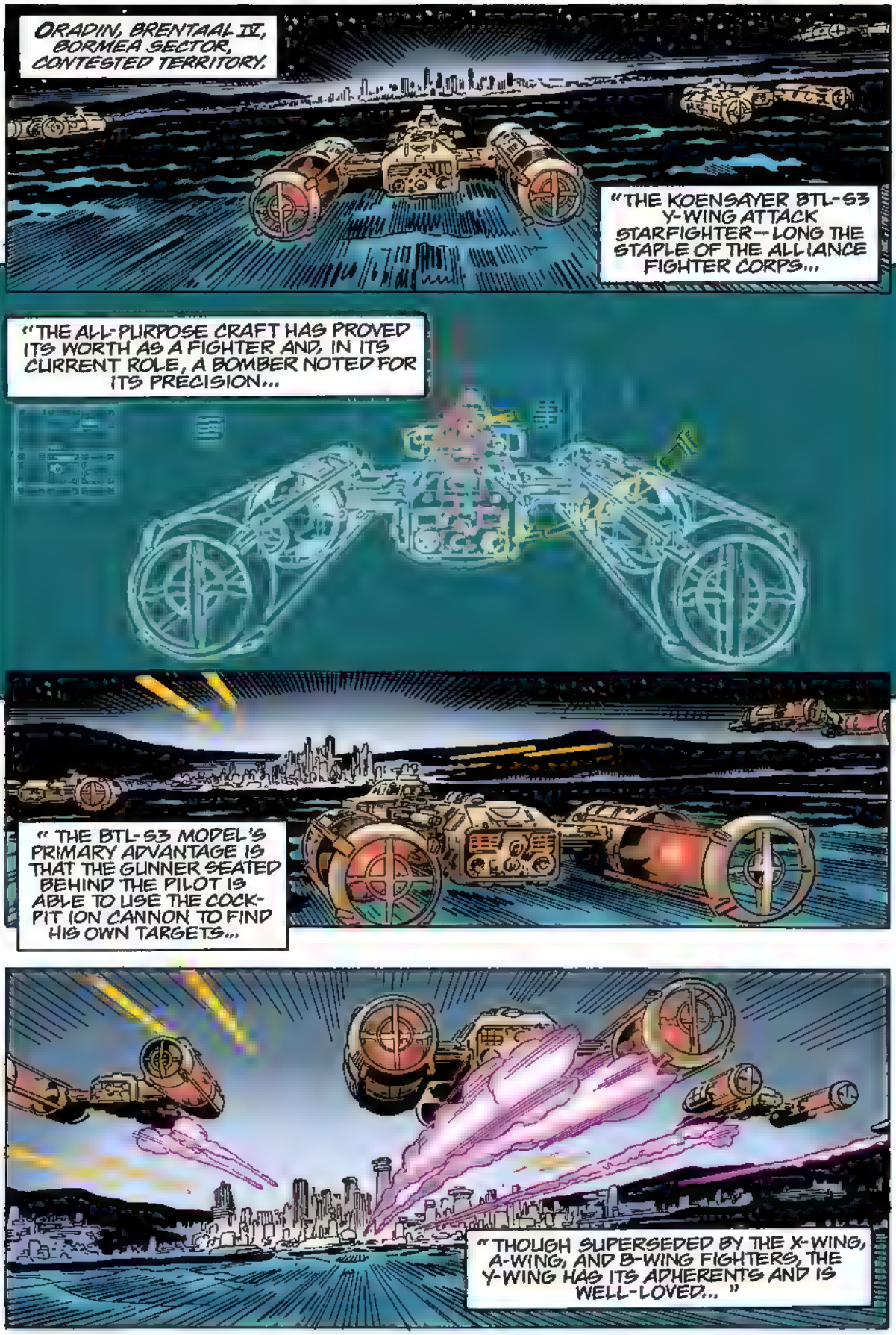
MISSION BRIEFING, BRENTAAL MOONBASE, BORMEA SECTOR.
WITH ISOTO'S HQ AT VUULTIN, WE WILL FEINT AT IT WITH ROGUE SQUADRON, WHILE COLONEL SALM'S WING SAFEGUARDS OUR STRIKE AT ORADIN AND THE SPACEPORT THERE.
ADMIRAL, ANY WORD WHERE THIS FEL'S FIGHTERS ARE?
OUR INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN VUULTIN HAVE SPOTTED FEL THERE, WHICH IS WHY YOUR MISSION WILL BE TO ENGAGE THEM AND PREVENT THEM FROM HITTING OUR ASSAULT TROOPS.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
YES!
WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO DESTROY THEM, BUT THIS IS NOT A HUNTER/KILLER MISSION. WHEN WE ASK YOU TO WITHDRAW, YOU WILL COME AWAY.
WE WON'T RUN, ADMIRAL.
ROGUE SQUADRON NEVER HAS. THIS TIME, THOUGH, I *WOULD* LIKE YOU TO SURVIVE. GET TO YOUR FIGHTERS. WE GO IMMEDIATELY.


ORADIN, BRENTAAL III, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL TERRITORY.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, SIR, THAT THE OTHER PILOTS AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE ISOTO'S ORDERS.
MAJOR PHENNIR, ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE MUTINY?
IT'S HARDLY MUTINY TO REFUSE THE ORDERS OF AN INCOMPETENT OFFICER.
ISOTO ACTS FOR THE EMPIRE, THE EMPIRE WE SERVE.
THAT EMPIRE DIED WITH THE EMPEROR. ISOTO SERVES HIMSELF, AND PESTAGE AND ISARD. THEY ARE NOT THE EMPIRE.
THE EMPIRE, OUR EMPIRE, IS TASKED WITH SAVING OUR CITIZENS. WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE OF BRENTAAL IV.
I COPY, SIR. STILL, IF YOU DECIDE TO USE OUR FIREPOWER TO MAKE BRENTAAL IV YOUR EMPIRE, WE'LL BE WITH YOU.
I HAVE NOT THE TEMPERAMENT TO BE A WARLORD, TURR.
BETTER YOU A WARLORD THAN ISARD AN EMPRESS.
WATCH YOURSELF, TURR. HER HEARING IS VERY SHARP.
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, COLONEL, BUT THE SCUM HAVE BEGUN THEIR ATTACK.
LET'S GET OUR FIGHTERS IN THE AIR, TURR. GOOD HUNTING TO YOU!
AND YOU, COLONEL. FOR THE CITIZENS OF BRENTAAL.

VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, CONTESTED TERRITORY.
JANSON, TYCHO, BREAK TO PORT AND TAKE YOUR FLIGHTS AROUND TO THE NORTH. MIND THE GROUND FIRE.
I COPY, WEDGE. TYCHO, SHOOT PAST US AND WE'LL PICK UP THE SQUINTS.
AS ORDERED.

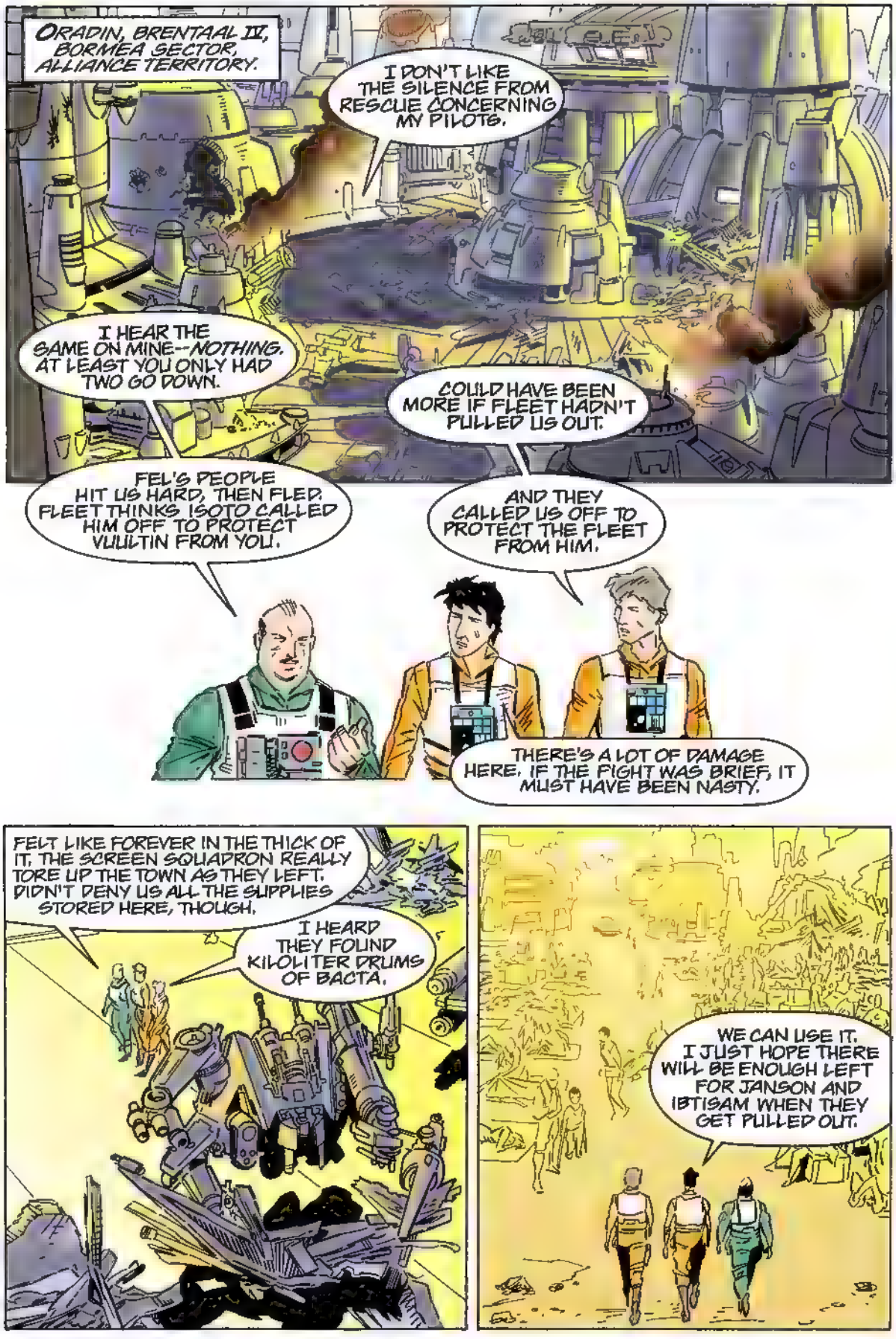

ROGUE LEAD TO FLEET-- WE ARE CASE YELLOW HERE: OPPOSITION IS LIGHT.
FLEET COPIES. RESERVES ARE BEING ALLOCATED TO THE ORADIN THEATRE.
HOW'S YOUR OPPOSITION?
IMPS ARE MOVING NIGHTSIDE.
WE'RE SHOOTING UP ISOTO'S HQ AND HE PULLS HIS CAPITAL SHIPS BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET? HE'S A MORON.
PLOURR, WATCH MY BACK.
CONSIDER IT WATCHED, LEAD.
GOOD SHOOTING, PLOURR.
I'M HIT! ENGINES GONE.

IBTISAM IS CLEAR. I'VE GOT THE SQUINT THAT VAPED HER.
BREAK PORT HARD, JANSON.
WHERE IS HE?
I'M HIT! EVERYTHING GONE, PUNCHING OUT.

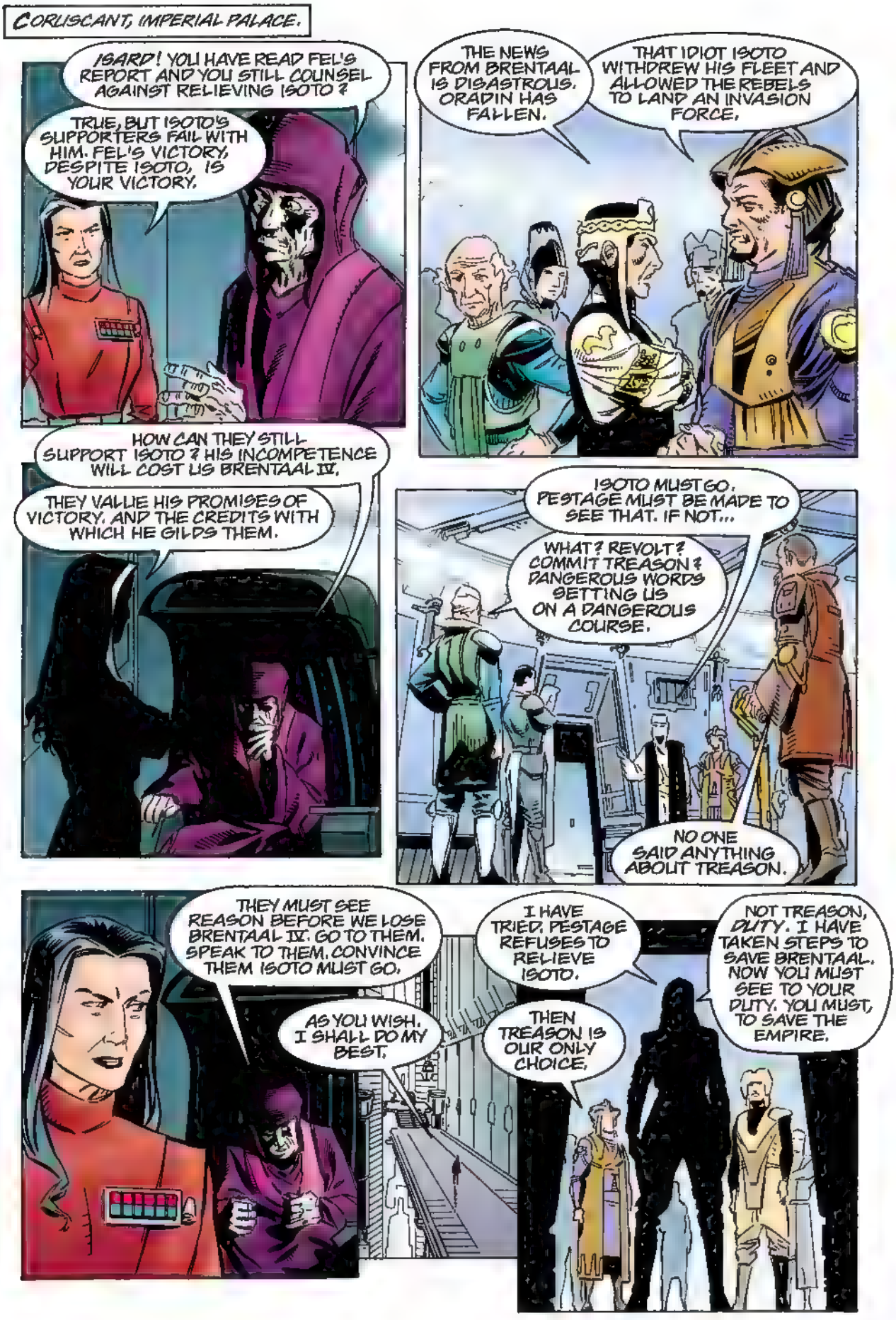

ORADIN, BRENTAAL II, BORMEA SECTOR, CONTESTED TERRITORY.
"THE KOENSAYER BTL-S3 Y-WING ATTACK STARFIGHTER--LONG THE STAPLE OF THE ALLIANCE FIGHTER CORPS...
"THE ALL-PURPOSE CRAFT HAS PROVED ITS WORTH AS A FIGHTER AND, IN ITS CURRENT ROLE, A BOMBER NOTED FOR ITS PRECISION...
"THE BTL-S3 MODEL'S PRIMARY ADVANTAGE IS THAT THE GUNNER SEATED BEHIND THE PILOT IS ABLE TO USE THE COCKPIT ION CANNON TO FIND HIS OWN TARGETS...
"THOUGH SUPERSEDED BY THE X-WING, A-WING, AND B-WING FIGHTERS, THE Y-WING HAS ITS ADHERENTS AND IS WELL-LOVED... "

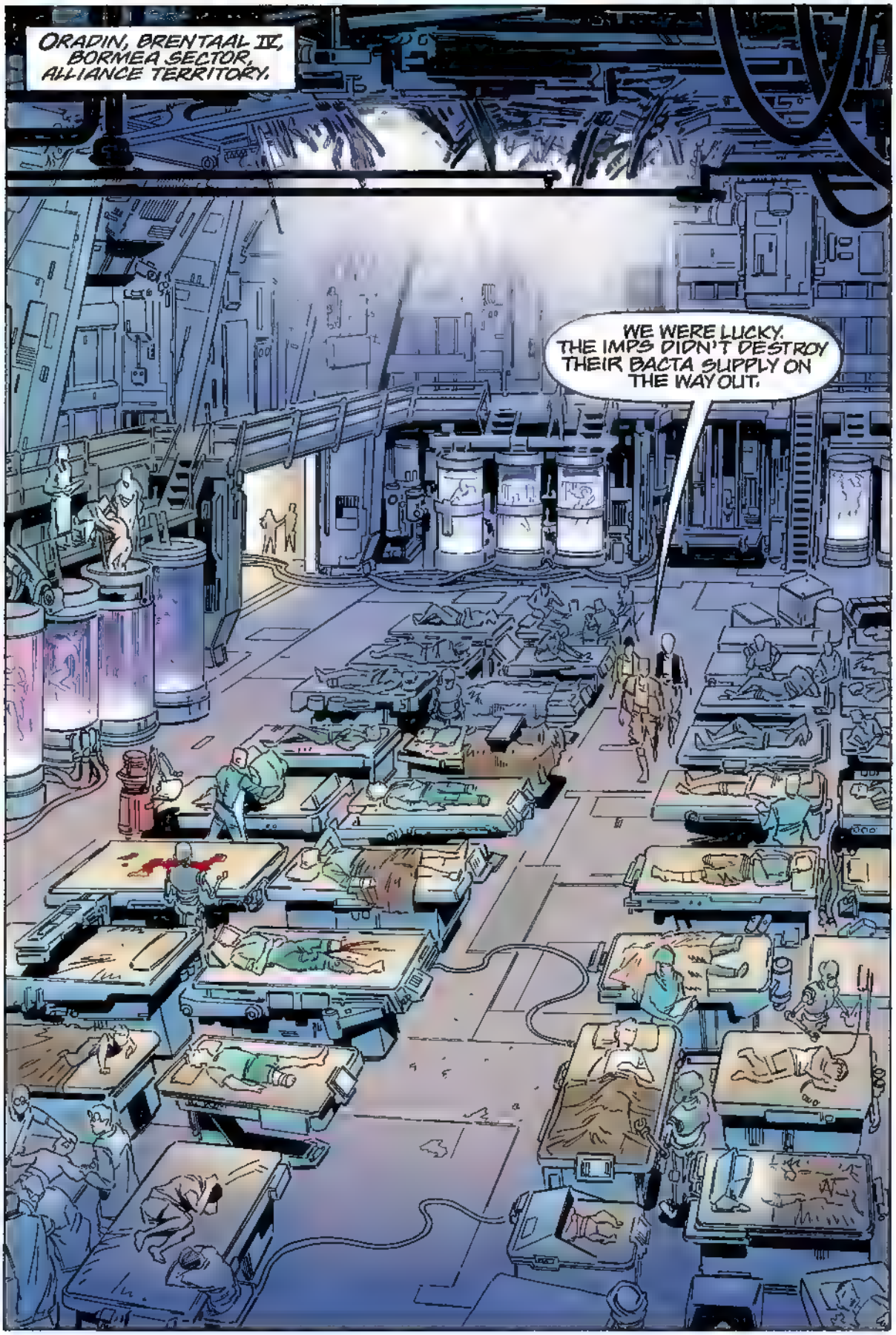
...BY THOSE OF US WHO MAKE OUR LIVING IN SERVICE TO THE EMPIRE.
MAJOR, HAVE YOUR SQUADRON MAKE A RUN ON THE ASSAULT CARRIERS COMING DOWN.
I COPY.
ALPHA SQUADRON AND I WILL DEAL WITH THE FIGHTERS.
FEL, YOU MUST RETURN TO VUULTIN. WE ARE BEING ATTACKED!
THE MAIN ASSAULT IS AT ORADIN, GENERAL ISOTO. WE CAN'T BREAK OFF.
THEY ARE ATTACKING ME! RETURN HERE IMMEDIATELY. THAT IS AN ORDER!
IGNORE HIM, SIR.
CAN'T. TURR, YOUR SQUADRON IS OUR REAR GUARD. LEAVE THE REBELS NOTHING.

"... ALPHA SQUADRON AND I WILL DEAL WITH VUULTIN."
SAY AGAIN, FLEET? YOU WANT US TO BREAK OFF? NO CAN DO. I HAVE PEOPLE DOWN.
WE COPY PILOTS DOWN. RESCUE ASSETS HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE SITUATION.
THE AREA IS HOSTILE, FLEET.
WE ARE AWARE OF THE SITUATION, ROGUE LEAD. YOUR RECALL IS ORDERED NOW!
C'MON, 1B; NRIN WOULD BE SKIPPING HIS WAY TO COVER.
:GROAN:
ROGUES, BACK TO THE INDEPENDENCE. NOW!
BUT WE HAVE PILOTS ON THE GROUND.
DON'T WORRY, NRIN. SOMEONE WILL FIND THEM. WE TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.


ORADIN, BRENTAAL II, BORMEA SECTOR, ALLIANCE TERRITORY.
I DON'T LIKE THE SILENCE FROM RESCUE CONCERNING MY PILOTS.
I HEAR THE SAME ON MINE--NOTHING. AT LEAST YOU ONLY HAD TWO GO DOWN.
COULD HAVE BEEN MORE IF FLEET HADN'T PULLED US OUT.
FEL'S PEOPLE HIT US HARD, THEN FLED. FLEET THINKS ISOTO CALLED HIM OFF TO PROTECT VUULTIN FROM YOU.
AND THEY CALLED US OFF TO PROTECT THE FLEET FROM HIM.
THERE'S A LOT OF DAMAGE HERE. IF THE FIGHT WAS BRIEF, IT MUST HAVE BEEN NASTY.
FELT LIKE FOREVER IN THE THICK OF IT. THE SCREEN SQUADRON REALLY TORE UP THE TOWN AS THEY LEFT. DIDN'T DENY US ALL THE SUPPLIES STORED HERE, THOUGH.
I HEARD THEY FOUND KILOLITER DRUMS OF BACTA.
WE CAN USE IT. I JUST HOPE THERE WILL BE ENOUGH LEFT FOR JANSON AND IBTISAM WHEN THEY GET PULLED OUT.

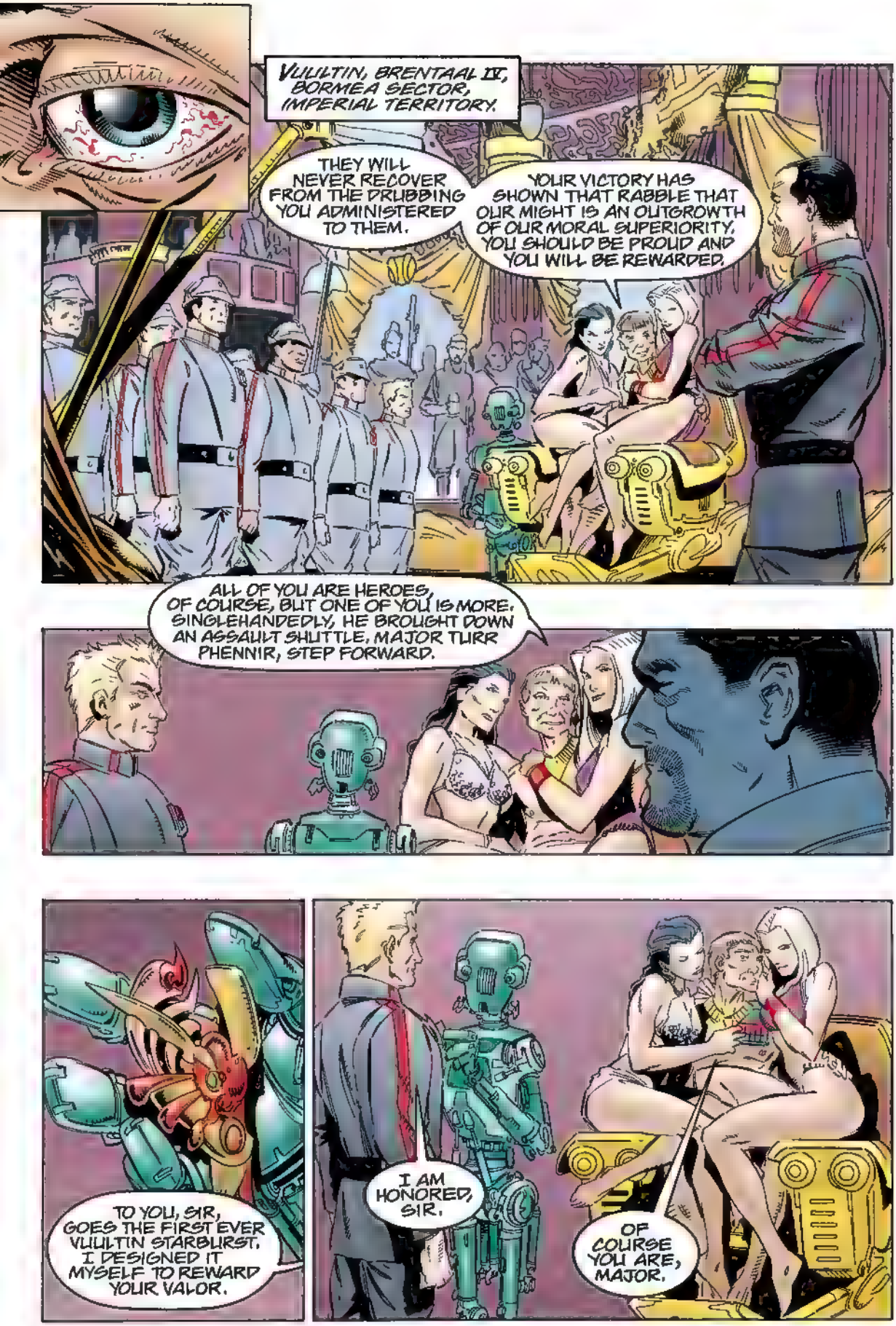
VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL TERRITORY.
IB, TIME TO MOVE. IT'S DARK.
EIGHTEEN SQUINTS. WE SAW ONE-EIGHT, SIR.
WHAT'S THAT?
HALLUCINATIONS, TOO. GREAT. CAN'T STAY, CAN'T GO.
NOTHING, IB. DRINK SOME MORE AND REST.
RIGHT, IB, THE INTEL WE GATHERED HERE WILL HELP.
SHE'S DEHYDRATING VERY FAST. I CAN'T LEAVE HER TO GET HELP, BUT IF I DON'T...
IT WASN'T "NOTHING." DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RESISTING.
NEVER CROSSED MY MIND.
RIGHT, FLYBOY. MOVE. YOU'RE COMING WITH US.

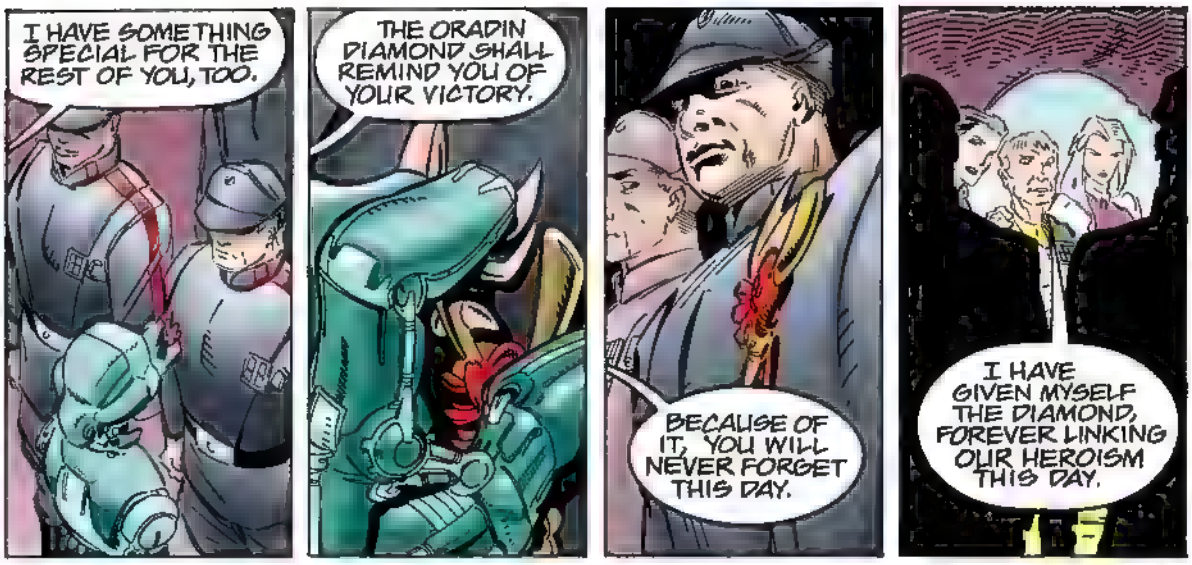

CORUSCANT, IMPERIAL PALACE.
ISARD! YOU HAVE READ FEL'S REPORT AND YOU STILL COUNSEL AGAINST RELIEVING ISOTO?
TRUE, BUT ISOTO'S SUPPORTERS FAIL WITH HIM. FEL'S VICTORY, DESPITE ISOTO, IS YOUR VICTORY.
THE NEWS FROM BRENTAAL IS DISASTROUS. ORADIN HAS FALLEN.
THAT IDIOT ISOTO WITHDREW HIS FLEET AND ALLOWED THE REBELS TO LAND AN INVASION FORCE.
HOW CAN THEY STILL SUPPORT ISOTO? HIS INCOMPETENCE WILL COST US BRENTAAL IV.
THEY VALUE HIS PROMISES OF VICTORY, AND THE CREDITS WITH WHICH HE GILDS THEM.
ISOTO MUST GO. PESTAGE MUST BE MADE TO SEE THAT. IF NOT...
WHAT? REVOLT? COMMIT TREASON? DANGEROUS WORDS SETTING US ON A DANGEROUS COURSE.
NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT TREASON.
THEY MUST SEE REASON BEFORE WE LOSE BRENTAAL IV. GO TO THEM. SPEAK TO THEM. CONVINCE THEM ISOTO MUST GO.
AS YOU WISH. I SHALL DO MY BEST.
I HAVE TRIED. PESTAGE REFUSES TO RELIEVE ISOTO.
THEN TREASON IS OUR ONLY CHOICE.
NOT TREASON, DUTY. I HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO SAVE BRENTAAL. NOW YOU MUST SEE TO YOUR DUTY. YOU MUST, TO SAVE THE EMPIRE.


ORADIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, ALLIANCE TERRITORY.
WE WERE LUCKY. THE IMPS DIDN'T DESTROY THEIR BACTA SUPPLY ON THE WAY OUT.

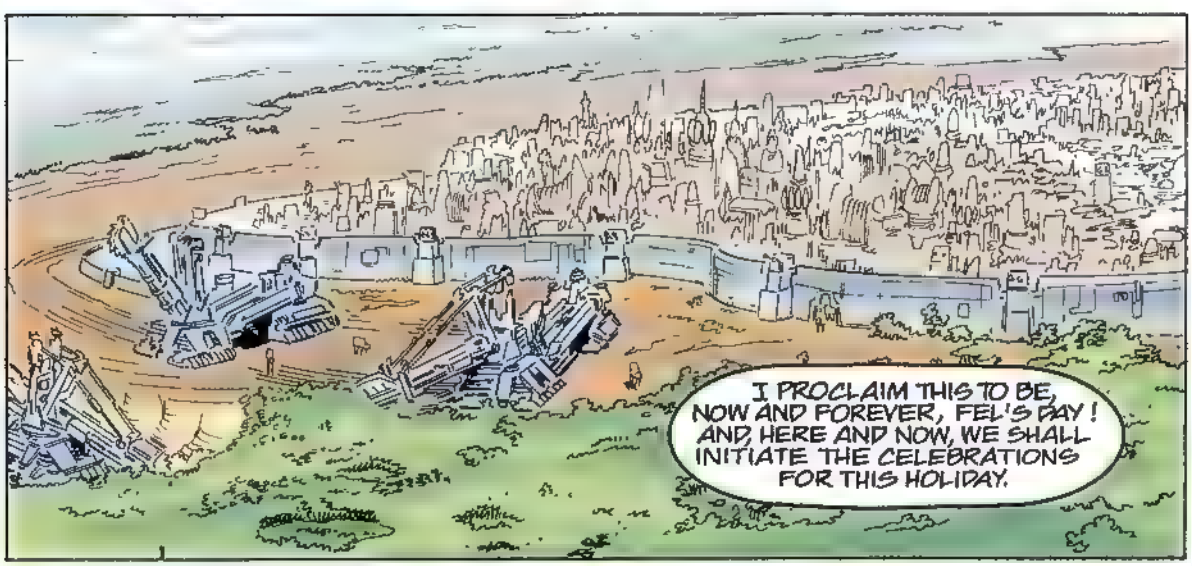
BUT WITH THIS MANY CASUALTIES, CAN IT BE ENOUGH?
WE'RE USING NORMAL TRIAGE RULES-- THOSE WHO CAN BE HELPED ARE BEING HELPED.
WHERE DID ALL THE CHILDREN COME FROM?
AN ASSAULT SHUTTLE WENT DOWN AND HIT A SCHOOL. MOST OF THE CASUALTIES HERE ARE FROM THAT SITE.
OTHERS, LIKE LT. CAYR HERE, WERE IN MY WING AND GOT SHOT DOWN. HOW ARE YOU DOING, TELSIJ?
CAN'T COMPLAIN, COLONEL, SIR.
WE HEARD THE BATTLING HERE WAS PRETTY NASTY.
YOU SAW WORSE AT ENDOR, SIR. I'M NEW, SO THIS WAS BAD ENOUGH.
WE HAD JAMMING COMING FROM ORADIN, SO THAT'S WHERE WE THOUGHT THEY WERE.
THEY WEREN'T. THEY CAME IN FROM ABOVE.
KIN KIAN, A SULLUSTAN, WAS BACKSEATING ME. HE SAID HE GOT ONE. I BELIEVE HIM, BUT THEY GOT US.

SEVEN IS HIT. GOING DOWN.
"HITTING THE WATER HURT ME MORE THAN THE IMPS. STOVE IN PART OF THE COCKPIT, TOOK MY LEG, MY EYE AND BUSTED SOME RIBS.
"I GOT OUT OF THERE AND MADE IT TO THE SURFACE. AND SHORE. SOMEHOW.
"I HOPE KIN MADE IT OUT. HAVEN'T HEARD. I GUESS HE DIDN'T."
DROIDS SAY THEY CAN FIX ME. I'LL BE BACK FLYING WITH YOU IN NO TIME, SIR.
CAREFUL, LT. TALK LIKE THAT AND CAPTAIN ANTILLES WILL CLAIM YOU AS A ROGUE. REST NOW. YOU'VE EARNED IT.
GUTSY PEOPLE FLYING WITH YOU, COLONEL.
THEY'RE ALL FIGHTERS, AND SHE'LL FLY AGAIN. WATCH. NONE OF US WILL EVER FORGET ORADIN...
"...AND I'M AFRAID SOME OF US WILL NEVER RECOVER FROM IT."

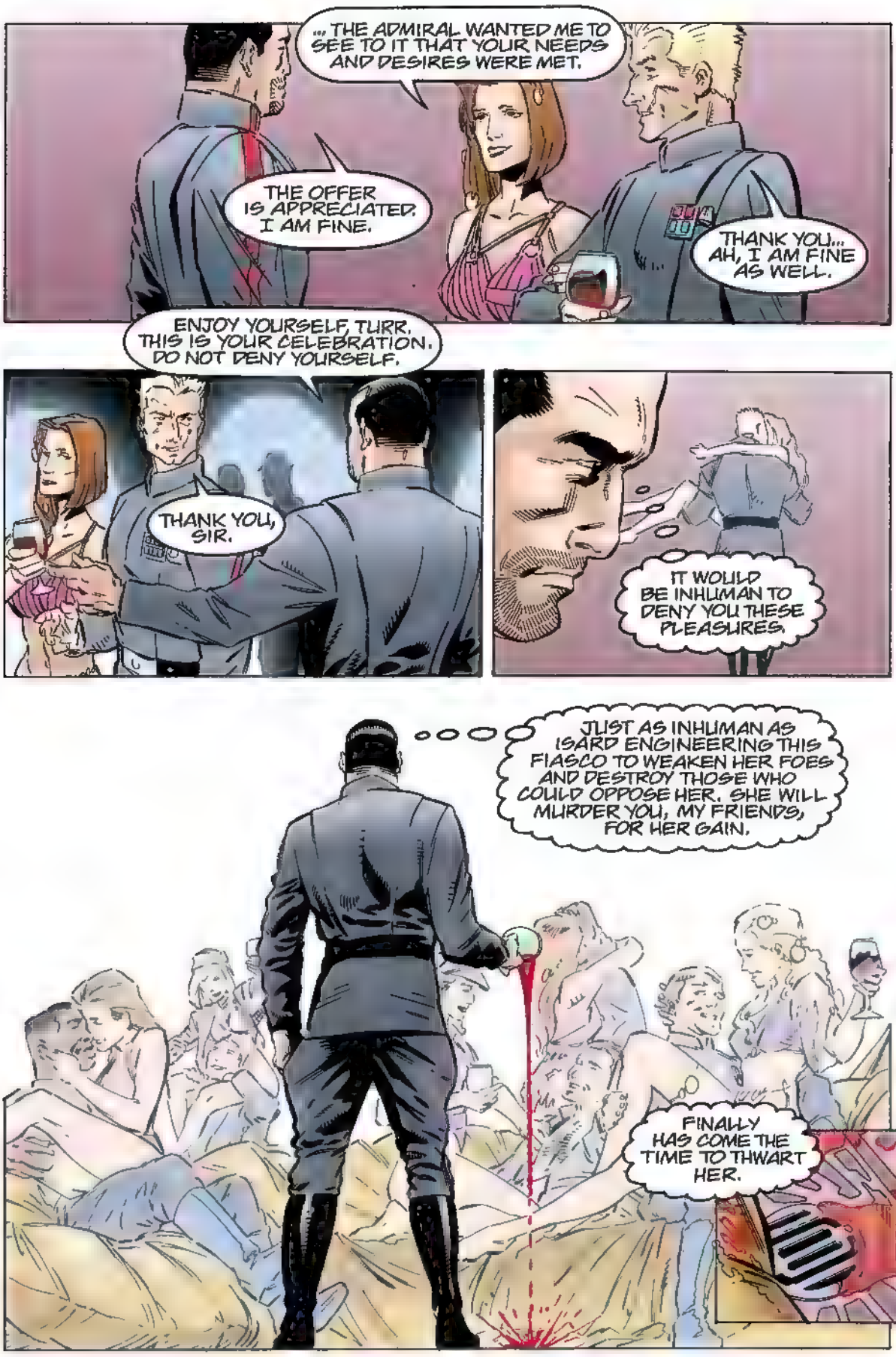

VUULTIN, BRENTAAL II, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL TERRITORY.
THEY WILL NEVER RECOVER FROM THE DRUBBING YOU ADMINISTERED TO THEM.
YOUR VICTORY HAS SHOWN THAT RABBLE THAT OUR MIGHT IS AN OUTGROWTH OF OUR MORAL SUPERIORITY. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
ALL OF YOU ARE HEROES, OF COURSE, BUT ONE OF YOU IS MORE. SINGLEHANDEDLY, HE BROUGHT DOWN AN ASSAULT SHUTTLE. MAJOR TURR PHENNIR, STEP FORWARD.
TO YOU, SIR, GOES THE FIRST EVER VUULTIN STARBURST. I DESIGNED IT MYSELF TO REWARD YOUR VALOR.
I AM HONORED, SIR.
OF COURSE YOU ARE, MAJOR.


I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR THE REST OF YOU, TOO.
THE ORADIN DIAMOND SHALL REMIND YOU OF YOUR VICTORY.
BECAUSE OF IT, YOU WILL NEVER FORGET THIS DAY.
I HAVE GIVEN MYSELF THE DIAMOND, FOREVER LINKING OUR HEROISM THIS DAY.

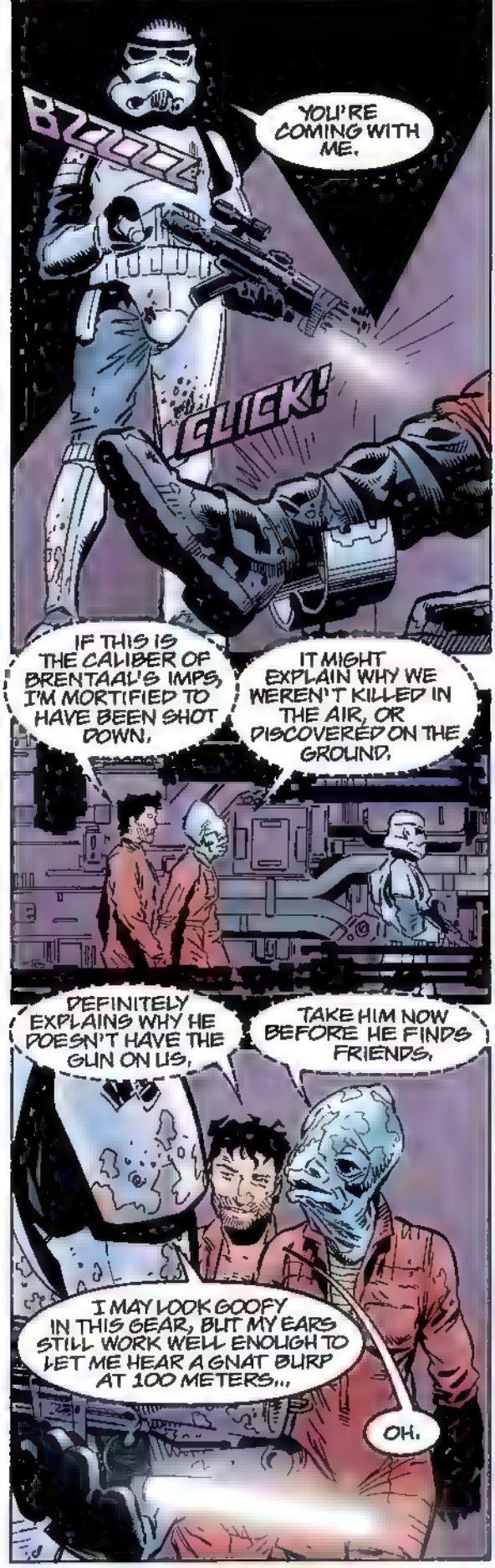
ONLY ONE OF US HOLDS HIMSELF APART THIS DAY.
BARON FEL HAS REFUSED ANY REWARD FOR HIS COURAGE.
HUMILITY SUCH AS THAT I SHOULD RESPECT, BUT I RESPECT COURAGE MORE.


I PROCLAIM THIS TO BE, NOW AND FOREVER, FEL'S DAY! AND, HERE AND NOW, WE SHALL INITIATE THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THIS HOLIDAY.

YOU HAVE A MEDAL.
YOU HAVE A DAY.
YOUR REWARD WILL LAST LONGER.
ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER CHANCE TO KILL REBELS. MORE AWARDS TO BE WON.
YOU DON'T IMAGINE THAT WHEN THEY COME FOR US TOMORROW, WE WILL HAVE AS EASY A TIME OF IT AS WE DID AT ORADIN.
OUR PEOPLE HERE SHOT DOWN ROGUES, GRANTED, THEY GOT THE BETTER OF THE EXCHANGE, BUT 3RD SQUADRON WAS UNDERSTRENGTH AND OUR LEAST EXPERIENCED. TOMORROW, OR WHENEVER THEY COME, WE WILL DESTROY THEM.
YOU SEEM ENAMOURED OF ISOTO'S PERCEPTION OF OUR VICTORY.
REMEMBER, HE COWERED HERE WHILE OUR PEOPLE DIED. HE MIGHT HAVE POWER, BUT IT IS NOT THE SORT THAT CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO YOU.
SIR, IF YOU THINK I WANT TO SUPPLANT...
I DON'T THINK THAT, TURR. BE CAUTIOUS, MAN. THERE ARE GAMES BEING PLAYED HERE, AND IT'S NOT GOOD FOR A PAWN TO DREAM.
SIR?
JUST REMEMBER, OUR EFFORTS HERE WILL NOT COVER US IN GLORY. BRENTAAL IS NOT A WELL FROM WHICH POWER CAN BE DRAWN.
MY LORDS...


... THE ADMIRAL WANTED ME TO SEE TO IT THAT YOUR NEEDS AND DESIRES WERE MET.
THE OFFER IS APPRECIATED. I AM FINE.
THANK YOU... AH, I AM FINE AS WELL.
ENJOY YOURSELF, TURR. THIS IS YOUR CELEBRATION. DO NOT DENY YOURSELF.
THANK YOU, SIR.
IT WOULD BE INHUMAN TO DENY YOU THESE PLEASURES.
JUST AS INHUMAN AS ISARD ENGINEERING THIS FIASCO TO WEAKEN HER FOES AND DESTROY THOSE WHO COULD OPPOSE HER. SHE WILL MURDER YOU, MY FRIENDS, FOR HER GAIN.
FINALLY HAS COME THE TIME TO THWART HER.

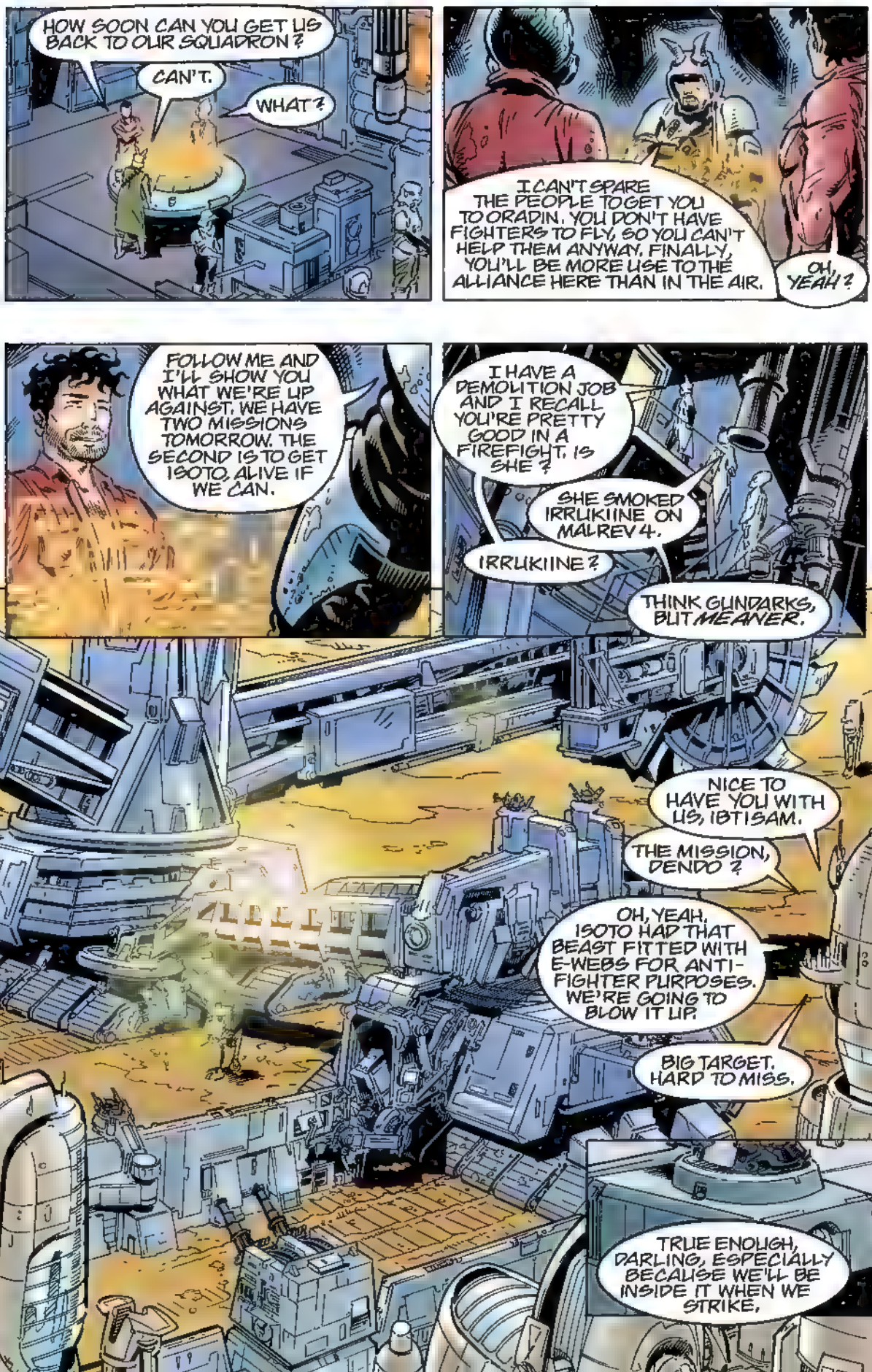
YOU'RE AWAKE. THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.
THE MOISTURE DOWN HERE, AND THE WATER, HAVE REHYDRATED ME.
I'M GLAD YOU FIND THE ACCOMMODATIONS PLEASING.
I DIDN'T SAY PLEASING. THEY'RE WET, WHICH IS MUCH BETTER THAN DRY FOR ME, AND THESE IMP-RATS...
IMPERIAL MRRS, YOU MEAN.
MRRS?
MEALS-READY-TO-REGURGITATE.
AT LEAST THE LOCAL RODENTS SEEM UNINTERESTED IN THEM.
RIGHT, SO WE HAVE NO BAIT FOR FRESH MEAT.
OF COURSE, I DOUBT ANYTHING DOWN HERE IS FRESH.
WES, WE HAVE VISITORS.


BZZZZZ
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
CLICK!
IF THIS IS THE CALIBER OF BRENTAAL'S IMPS, I'M MORTIFIED TO HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN.
IT MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY WE WEREN'T KILLED IN THE AIR, OR DISCOVERED ON THE GROUND.
DEFINITELY EXPLAINS WHY HE DOESN'T HAVE THE GUN ON US.
TAKE HIM NOW BEFORE HE FINDS FRIENDS.
I MAY LOOK GOOFY IN THIS GEAR, BUT MY EARS STILL WORK WELL ENOUGH TO LET ME HEAR A GNAT BURP AT 100 METERS...
OH.

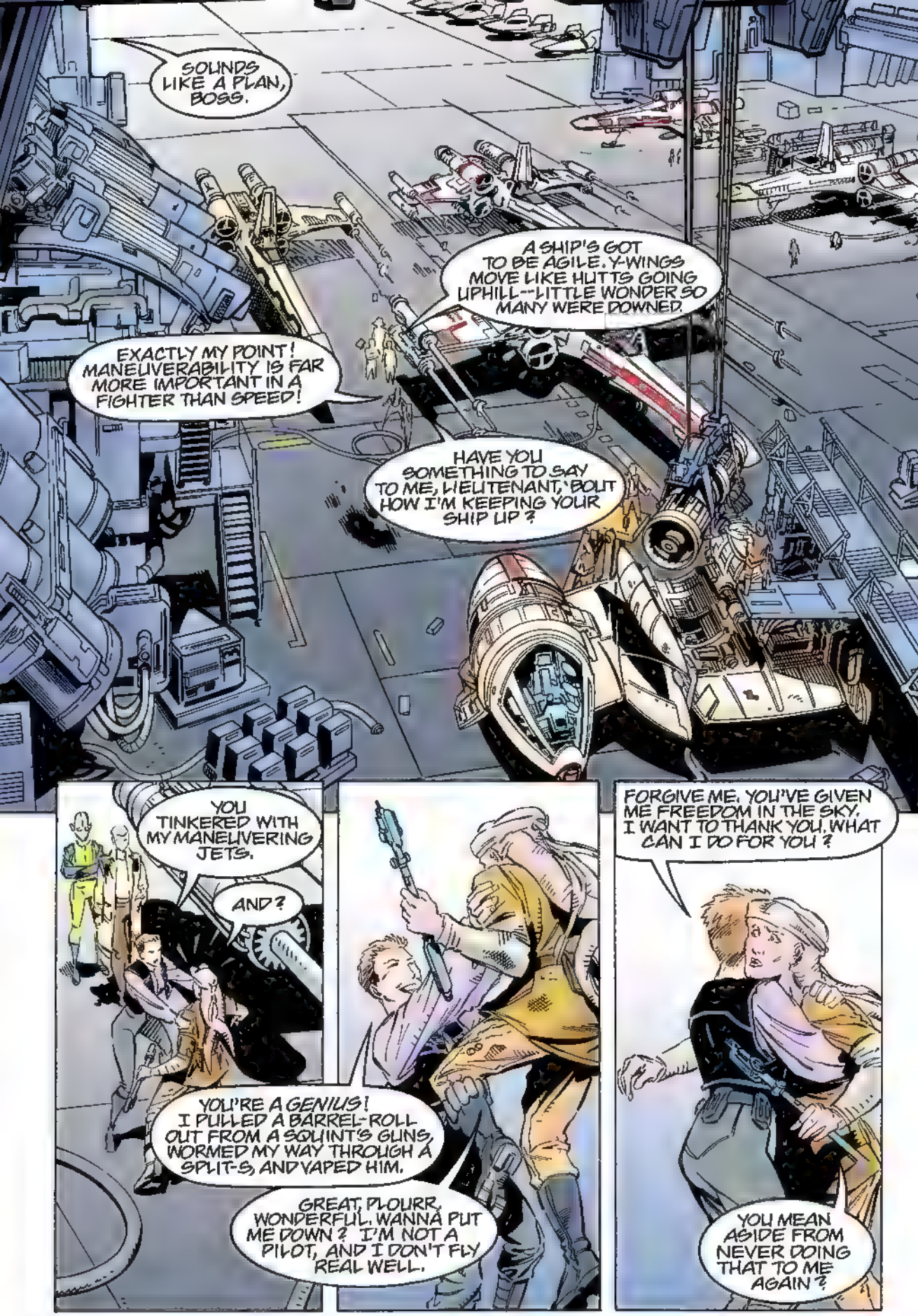
YOU'LL GET YOUR EXPLANATIONS, BUT NOT FROM ME. HERE THEY ARE, SIR.
NOT MUCH WORSE FOR THE WEAR, I SEE.
KAPP DENDO!

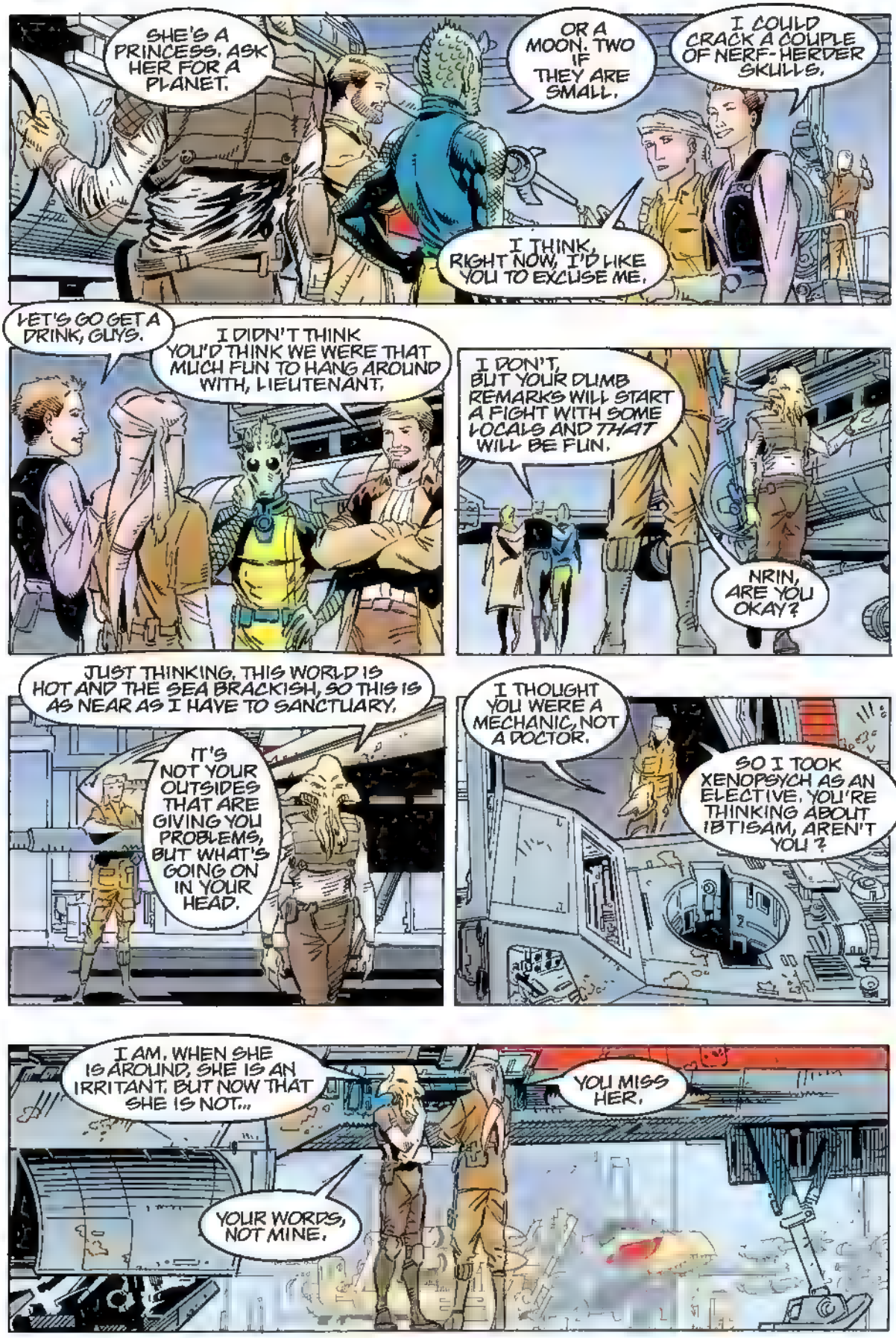
SORRY ABOUT THE RECEPTION, JANSON, BUT I WAS OUT DOING A DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FROM YOUR RAID WHEN MY GUYS PICKED YOU UP. YOU WERE ISOLATED SO YOU WOULDN'T COMPROMISE OUR OPERATION HERE.
WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?

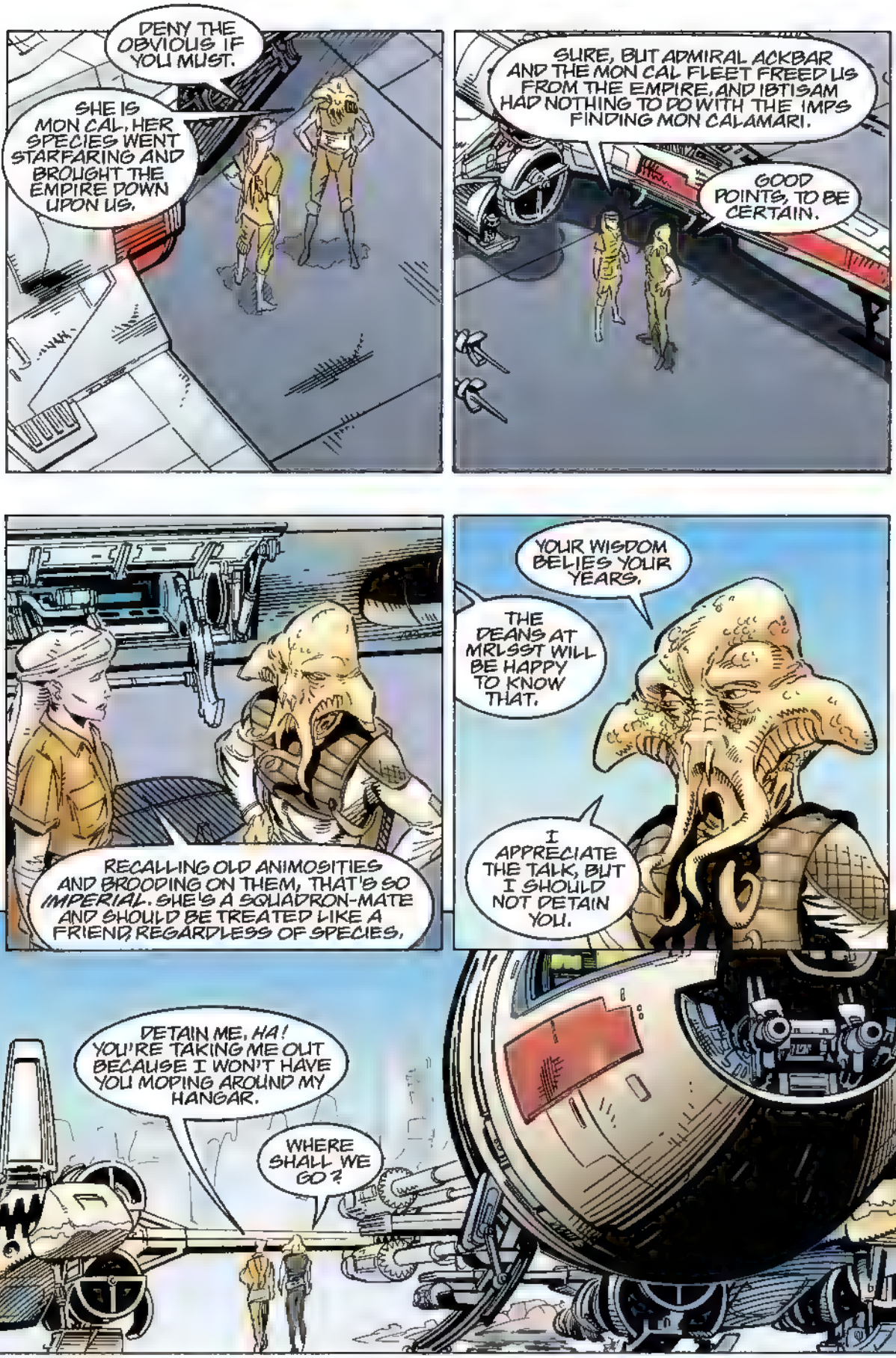
THIS IS IBTISAM. SHE JOINED THE SQUADRON AFTER OUR RUN ON TATOOINE. THIS IS KAPP DENDO, AN ALLIANCE INTELLIGENCE AGENT.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE.
WISH WE COULD HAVE BEEN FASTER.
IS WINTER HERE, TOO?
DON'T KNOW AND COULDN'T TELL YOU IF I DID. MY TEAM WAS INSERTED TWO WEEKS AGO.
YOUR REPORTS PLACED FEL HERE.
THAT WAS US. FEL'S GOT TIGHT SECURITY ON HIS SQUADRON HQ, SO WE CAN ONLY REPORT WHAT CHANCE SIGHTINGS WE GET. ISOTO'S SECURITY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS SO LAX THIS MIGHT AS WELL BE AN OPEN CITY.
IT MAKES NO SENSE FOR THE IMPS TO LEAVE SOMEONE THAT INCOMPETENT IN CHARGE.
IT REFLECTS POORLY ON PESTAGE, ESPECIALLY NCE HE VOWED BRENTAAL NOULD NOT FALL TO THE ALLIANCE.
SO THE AVERAGE RONTO DROPPING IS SMARTER THAN ISOTO. SINCE HE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE, I'M NOT INCLINED TO COMPLAIN.
NEITHER AM I, BUT IF POLITICS IS WHAT'S HOLDING THE IMPS BACK...
FIGURING OUT WHAT'S GOING ON WILL LET US ANTICIPATE A CHANGE AND BENEFIT FROM IT.


HOW SOON CAN YOU GET US BACK TO OUR SQUADRON?
CAN'T.
WHAT?
I CAN'T SPARE THE PEOPLE TO GET YOU TO ORADIN. YOU DON'T HAVE FIGHTERS TO FLY, SO YOU CAN'T HELP THEM ANYWAY. FINALLY, YOU'LL BE MORE USE TO THE ALLIANCE HERE THAN IN THE AIR.
OH, YEAH?
FOLLOW ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST. WE HAVE TWO MISSIONS TOMORROW. THE SECOND IS TO GET ISOTO, ALIVE IF WE CAN.
I HAVE A DEMOLITION JOB AND I RECALL YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD IN A FIREFIGHT, IS SHE?
SHE SMOKED IRRUKIINE ON MALREV 4.
IRRUKIINE?
THINK GUNDARKS, BUT MEANER.
NICE TO HAVE YOU WITH US, IBTISAM.
THE MISSION, DENDO?
OH, YEAH, ISOTO HAD THAT BEAST FITTED WITH E-WEBS FOR ANTI-FIGHTER PURPOSES. WE'RE GOING TO BLOW IT UP.
BIG TARGET. HARD TO MISS.
TRUE ENOUGH, DARLING, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE'LL BE INSIDE IT WHEN WE STRIKE.

ORADIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, ALLIANCE TERRITORY.
I'VE GONE OVER MY COMBAT HOLOCAM OUTPUT...
...I THINK I SAW WES AND IBTISAM ON THE GROUND, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE.
I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT, BUT FLEET JUST RELAYED WORD THAT THEY'VE BEEN PICKED UP BY OUR PEOPLE. THEY'RE SAFE.
THE FORCE IS WITH US.
I GUESS SO. AFTER LOSING DLLR AND HERIAN, TO LOSE IBTISAM AND JANSON...
JANSON'S HOPPED A LOT OF SYSTEMS WITH THE SQUADRON.
IT SEEMS UNFAIR, BUT LOSING IBTISAM DIDN'T HURT AS MUCH AS THE IDEA OF LOSING WES.
AND THAT SURPRISES YOU? WE ALL DO IT, WEDGE, THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN AROUND A WHILE.
DO WHAT?
DON'T LET OURSELVES GET EMOTIONALLY INVESTED IN THE NEW GUYS BECAUSE THEY'LL PROBABLY DIE. I DON'T THINK YOU CALLED ME BY MY FIRST NAME FOR A GOOD SIX CYCLES AFTER I JOINED THE SQUADRON.
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT. YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEED TO FIGHT THAT TENDENCY. AT LEAST WITH IBTISAM I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE AMENDS.


SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN, BOSS.
A SHIP'S GOT TO BE AGILE. Y-WINGS MOVE LIKE HUTTS GOING UPHILL--LITTLE WONDER SO MANY WERE DOWNED.
EXACTLY MY POINT! MANEUVERABILITY IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT IN A FIGHTER THAN SPEED!
HAVE YOU SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME, LIEUTENANT, 'BOUT HOW I'M KEEPING YOUR SHIP UP?
YOU TINKERED WITH MY MANEUVERING JETS.
AND?
YOU'RE A GENIUS! I PULLED A BARREL-ROLL OUT FROM A SQUINT'S GUNS, WORMED MY WAY THROUGH A SPLIT-S, AND YAPED HIM.
GREAT, PLOURR, WONDERFUL. WANNA PUT ME DOWN? I'M NOT A PILOT, AND I DON'T FLY REAL WELL.
FORGIVE ME. YOU'VE GIVEN ME FREEDOM IN THE SKY. I WANT TO THANK YOU. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU MEAN ASIDE FROM NEVER DOING THAT TO ME AGAIN?


SHE'S A PRINCESS. ASK HER FOR A PLANET.
OR A MOON. TWO IF THEY ARE SMALL.
I COULD CRACK A COUPLE OF NERF-HERDER SKULLS.
I THINK, RIGHT NOW, I'D LIKE YOU TO EXCUSE ME.
LET'S GO GET A DRINK, GUYS.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D THINK WE WERE THAT MUCH FUN TO HANG AROUND WITH, LIEUTENANT.
I DON'T, BUT YOUR DUMB REMARKS WILL START A FIGHT WITH SOME LOCALS AND THAT WILL BE FUN.
NRIN, ARE YOU OKAY?
JUST THINKING. THIS WORLD IS HOT AND THE SEA BRACKISH, SO THIS IS AS NEAR AS I HAVE TO SANCTUARY.
IT'S NOT YOUR OUTSIDES THAT ARE GIVING YOU PROBLEMS, BUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A MECHANIC, NOT A DOCTOR.
SO I TOOK XENOPSYCH AS AN ELECTIVE. YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IBTISAM, AREN'T YOU?
I AM. WHEN SHE IS AROUND, SHE IS AN IRRITANT. BUT NOW THAT SHE IS NOT...
YOU MISS HER.
YOUR WORDS, NOT MINE.


DENY THE OBVIOUS IF YOU MUST.
SHE IS MON CAL, HER SPECIES WENT STARFARING AND BROUGHT THE EMPIRE DOWN UPON US.
SURE, BUT ADMIRAL ACKBAR AND THE MON CAL FLEET FREED US FROM THE EMPIRE, AND IBTISAM HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE IMPS FINDING MON CALAMARI.
GOOD POINTS, TO BE CERTAIN.
RECALLING OLD ANIMOSITIES AND BROODING ON THEM, THAT'S SO IMPERIAL. SHE'S A SQUADRON-MATE AND SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE A FRIEND, REGARDLESS OF SPECIES.
YOUR WISDOM BELIES YOUR YEARS.
THE DEANS AT MRLSST WILL BE HAPPY TO KNOW THAT.
I APPRECIATE THE TALK, BUT I SHOULD NOT DETAIN YOU.
DETAIN ME, HA! YOU'RE TAKING ME OUT BECAUSE I WON'T HAVE YOU MOPING AROUND MY HANGAR.
WHERE SHALL WE GO?

ANY PLACE PLOURR AND HER COURT ARE NOT!
THE SILICATE TRACERY IS EXQUISITE ON THIS ONE.
ULTRAVIOLET REFLECTORS MAKE DISPLAY DAZZLING.
DO NOT DROP IT. IT'S THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.
HOW MUCH?
IT'S AN HEIRLOOM.
HOW MUCH?
VERY OLD.
HOW MUCH?
VERY, VERY OLD. I COULD NOT PART WITH IT FOR LESS THAN A THOUSAND CREDITS.
SIGNATURE OF UV REFLECTORS RESEMBLE REFLECTORS MADE ON SULLUST IN LAST DECADE.
HEY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?
FOR YOU, SIR, A DEAL... A BARGAIN...

SIR, GOOD SIR, A MISTAKE. PLEASE, I HAVE FOR YOU A MOST WONDERFUL BARGAIN... SIR? SIR?
LOOK, AVAN, I'M FINE, REALLY. I JUST--YOU KNOW, DLLR AND HERIAN, THEN WES AND IBTISAM GO DOWN. I NEED TO BE ALONE.
SORRY, FEYLIS, I JUST DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ... HECK, I GUESS I JUST DIDN'T THINK.
WHAT?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D WANT TO BE ALONE. I FEEL THE LOSS AND FEAR TOO, AND I DON'T.
IN THE BERUSS CLAN, EMOTIONS ARE DISTRUSTED AND DISCOUNTED. EXTINCT, BASICALLY, SO I NEVER KNOW HOW TO READ THE EMOTIONS OF OTHERS. I WANTED TO HELP.
AND TO BE HELPED?
I GUESS, YES, DOES IT MATTER THAT I'M ATTRACTED TO YOU?
DOESN'T HURT, BUT NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO EXPLORE THAT.
FAIR ENOUGH.
WHAT'S THE FLOWER FOR?
PEACE OFFERING.
KRSCH
Umm.
ARE YOU HAPPY?
HAPPIER, WHICH, FOR NOW, IS GOOD ENOUGH.

VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL TERRITORY.

I WISH YOU WERE HERE AS WELL, BUT SEEING YOU IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR NOW.

I WAS OFFERED A BERTH ON ONE OF THE MANY SHIPS HEADING TO BRENTAAL TO EVACUATE CITIZENS. ALL UNOFFICIAL-- PEOPLE OF LIKE CLASSES SAVING THEIR PEERS.

EVENTS HERE HAVE BEEN MANIPULATED SO OUR CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE DIMINISHED.

ARE YOU SAFE?

SAFE ENOUGH. SOON WEDGE ANTILLES AND HIS ROGUE SQUADRON WILL COME FOR VUULTIN.

ARE THEY BETTER THAN YOUR PEOPLE?

I TRAINED SOME OF THEM. THEY WERE VERY GOOD. THEY HAVE ALREADY KILLED SOME OF MY PILOTS.

ARE THEY GOOD ENOUGH TO KILL YOU?

NOT THEM.

AND WEDGE?

HE LEADS THEM. I WOULD BE A FOOL TO UNDERESTIMATE HIS SKILL, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

FORGET YOUR WAR. JUST COME TO ME, MY LOVE.

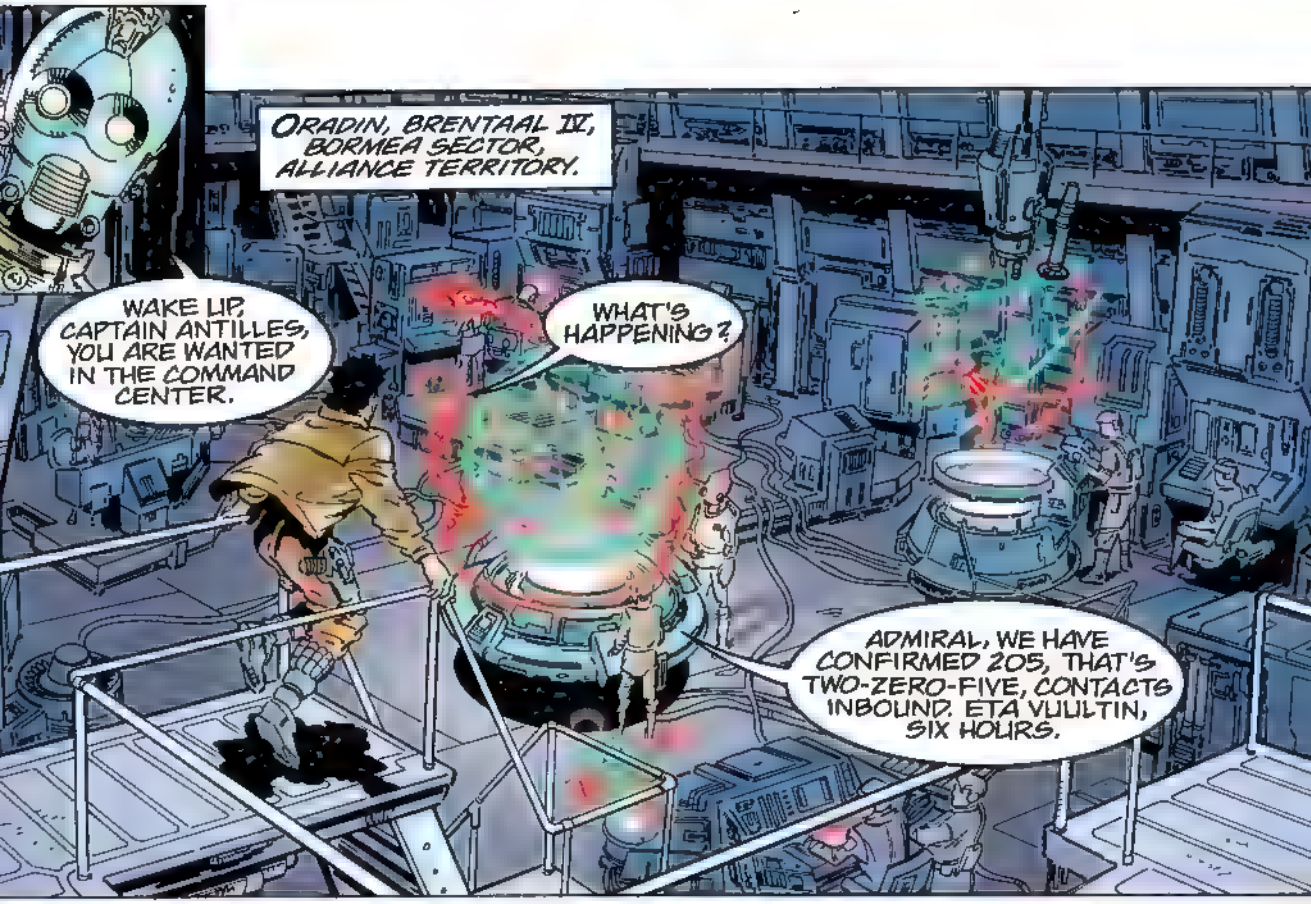
I WILL BE WITH YOU, SOON ENOUGH. NOTHING WILL KEEP US APART.

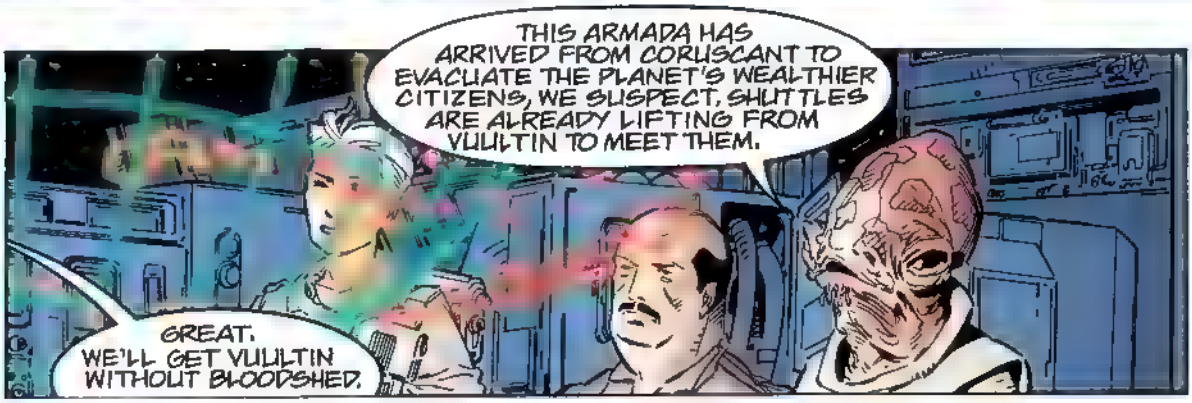
PROMISE.

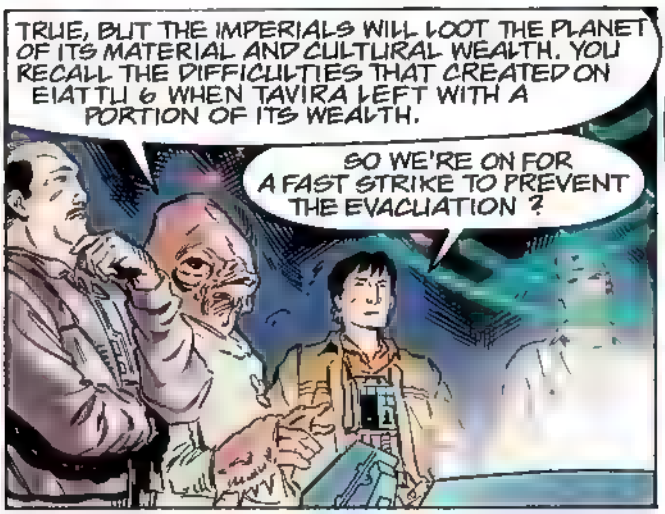
YOU HAVE MY WORD TO GO ALONG WITH MY HEART.

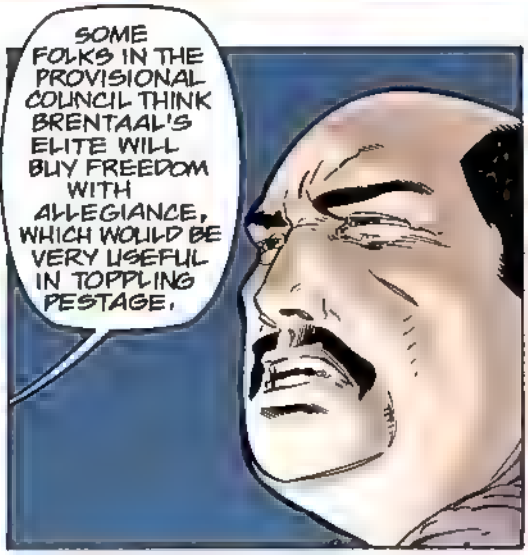
THEN SLEEP WELL, TIR.

I WILL. I'LL DREAM OF YOU.

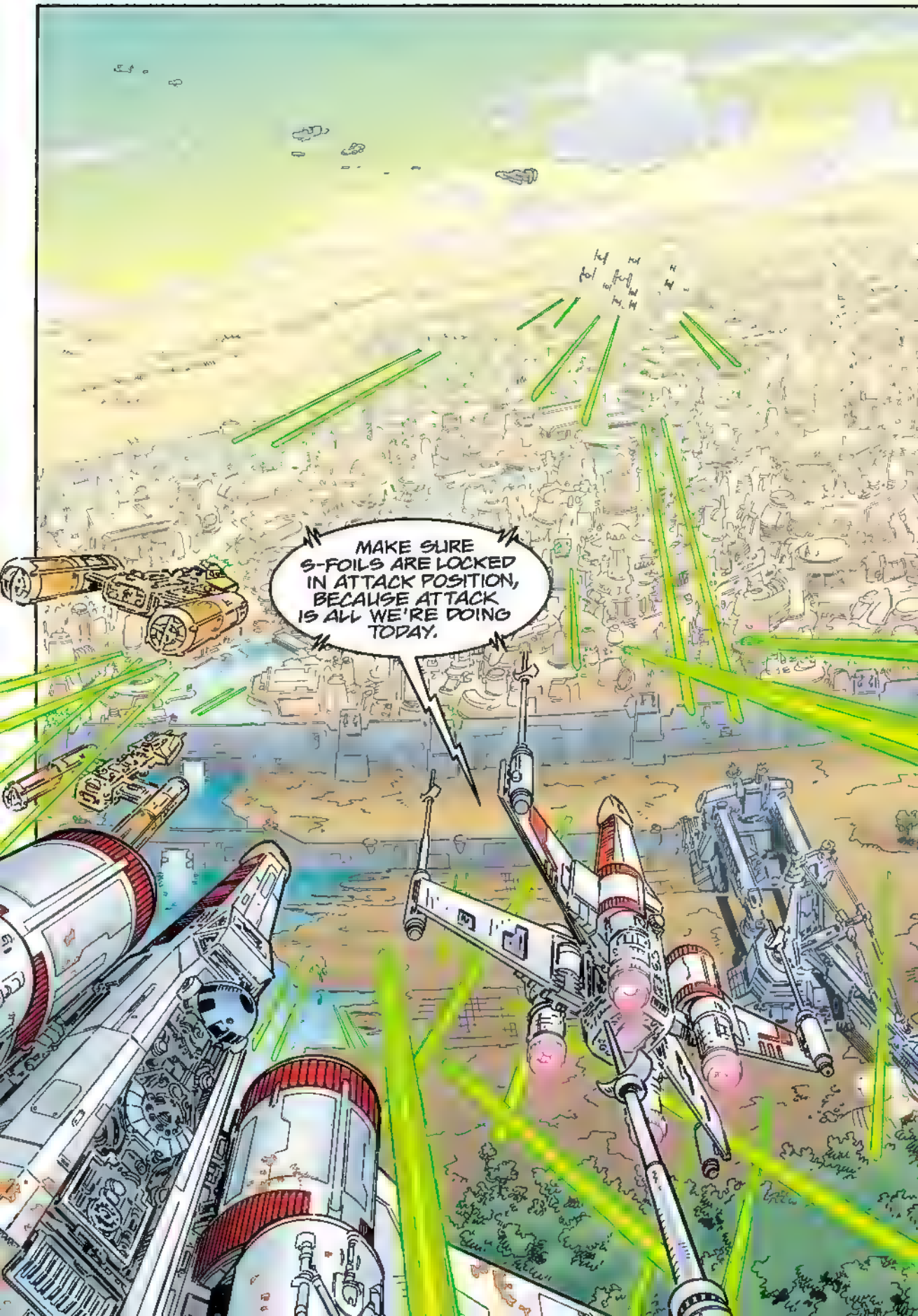

ORADIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, ALLIANCE TERRITORY.
WAKE UP, CAPTAIN ANTILLES, YOU ARE WANTED IN THE COMMAND CENTER.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
ADMIRAL, WE HAVE CONFIRMED 205, THAT'S TWO-ZERO-FIVE, CONTACTS INBOUND. ETA VUULTIN, SIX HOURS.


THIS ARMADA HAS ARRIVED FROM CORUSCANT TO EVACUATE THE PLANET'S WEALTHIER CITIZENS, WE SUSPECT. SHUTTLES ARE ALREADY LIFTING FROM VUULTIN TO MEET THEM.
GREAT. WE'LL GET VUULTIN WITHOUT BLOODSHED.


TRUE, BUT THE IMPERIALS WILL LOOT THE PLANET OF ITS MATERIAL AND CULTURAL WEALTH. YOU RECALL THE DIFFICULTIES THAT CREATED ON EIATTU 6 WHEN TAVIRA LEFT WITH A PORTION OF ITS WEALTH.
SO WE'RE ON FOR A FAST STRIKE TO PREVENT THE EVACUATION ?


SOME FOLKS IN THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL THINK BRENTAAL'S ELITE WILL BUY FREEDOM WITH ALLEGIANCE, WHICH WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN TOPPLING PESTAGE.

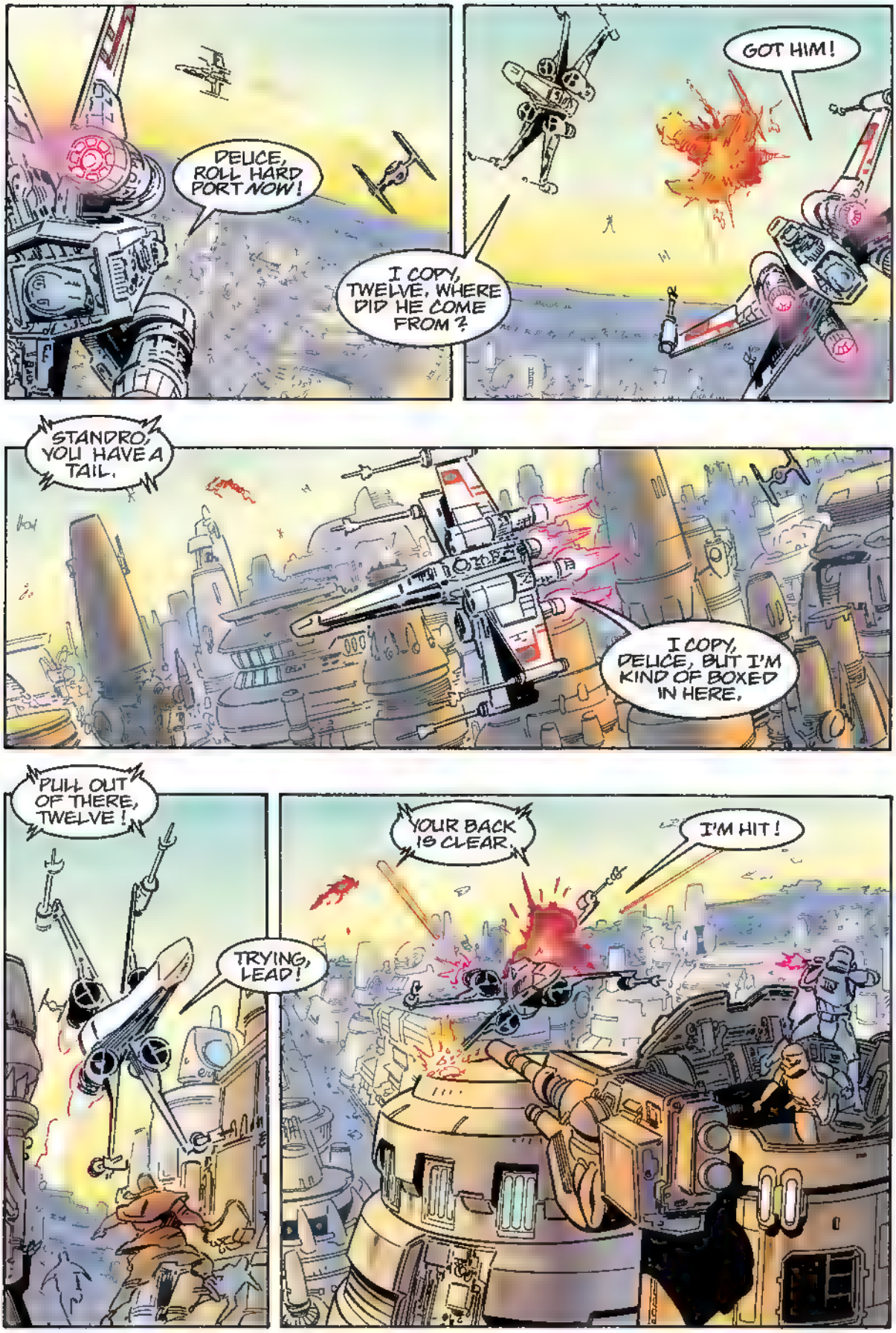
DOES ANYONE ELSE FEEL LIKE THIS WHOLE OP HAS BEEN TO THE BENEFIT OF PESTAGE'S ENEMIES?
A SURE ALLY IS MY ENEMY'S ENEMY.
TRUE, BUT ANYONE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TAKE DOWN THE EMPEROR'S SUCCESSOR IS GOING TO COME LOOKING FOR US NEXT.
THEN WE WORRY ABOUT HIM *NEXT*. RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO BRIEF OUR PILOTS AND GO.
BECAUSE OUR ION CANNONS CAN DISABLE SHIPS, AGGRESSOR WING WILL TARGET CIVILIAN SHIPS AND PREVENT ESCAPE.
ROGUES, WE'LL KEEP FEL'S SQUINTS OFF THE Y-WINGS AND THE GROUND POUNDERS COMING IN.
OUR HAND WAS KIND OF FORCED HERE, WASN'T IT?
SEEMS SO. I'M THINKING, THOUGH, THIS MIGHT HAVE CAUGHT THE IMPS BY SURPRISE, TOO.
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, LEAD.
YEAH, THE IDEA OF FEL LAYING IN WAIT FOR US DOESN'T THRILL ME, EITHER.

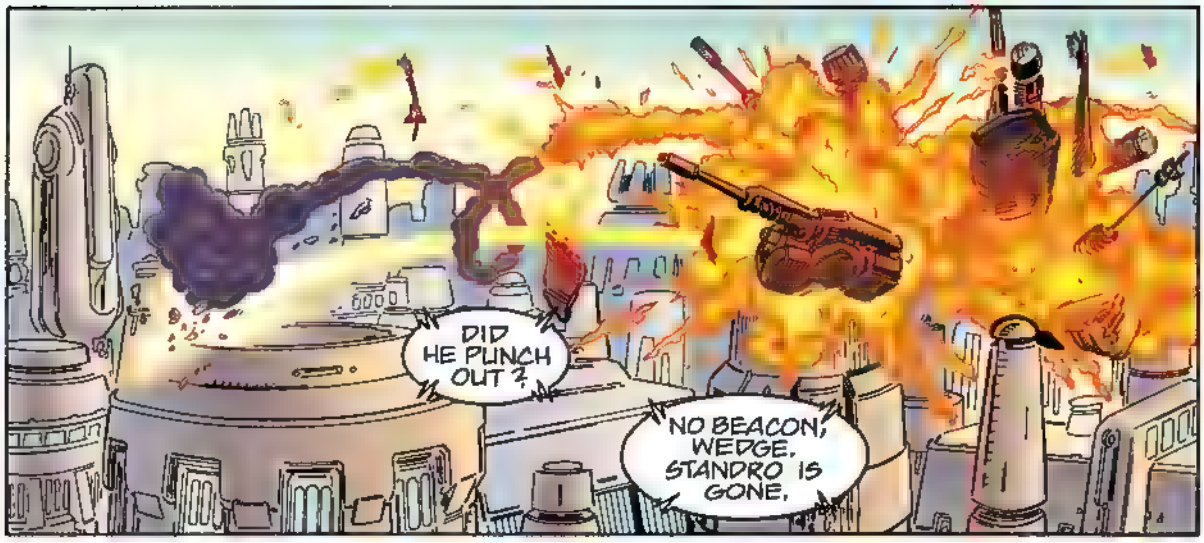

MAKE SURE S-FOILS ARE LOCKED IN ATTACK POSITION, BECAUSE ATTACK IS ALL WE'RE DOING TODAY.

VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, IMPERIAL TERRITORY
CAN'T SLEEP, FOR ANTICIPATION OF THE COMING BATTLE, BARON FEL? YOU FIND STRENGTH HERE IN THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM?
INCREASE HYDRATION BY 5% AND FIND A WAY TO GET RID OF THE APHIDS USING SOMETHING OTHER THAN A LASER.
IT SHALL BE DONE, MASTER FEL.

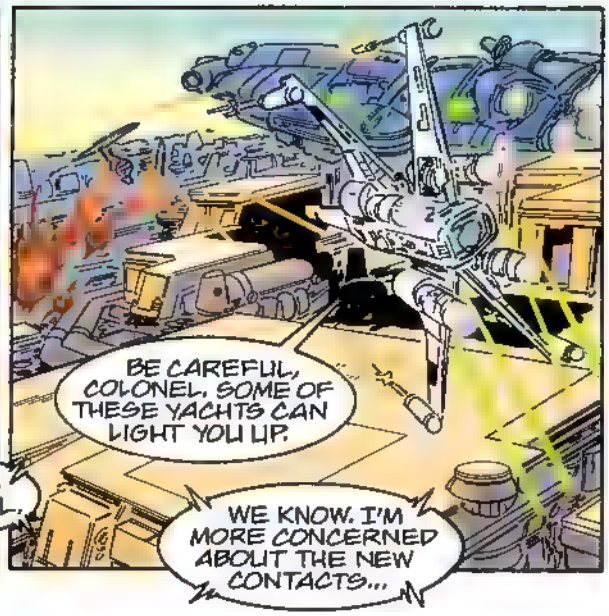
CALM BEFORE THE STORM? YOUR METAPHORS ARE AS TIRESOME AS YOUR MEDDLING.
MEDDLING? I AM DOING ALL THAT IS POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE EMPIRE.
SAVE IT FOR PESTAGE. HE'LL BELIEVE IT, JUST AS HE BELIEVED HAVING ISOTO COMMANDING THE DEFENSE OF BRENTAAL IV WOULD WORK.
ISOTO COULD YET WIN THE DAY.
NOT WITH TWO DEATH STARS AND A LEGION OF DARK JEDI.
YOUR COMMENTS BORDER ON INSUBORDINATION.
AND YOUR DUPLICITY IN ALL THIS IS CLEARLY TREASONOUS.
HOW DARE YOU!?
DEAD MEN DARE MUCH BECAUSE WE'RE FORCED TO BE REALISTIC. I DETEST WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE.

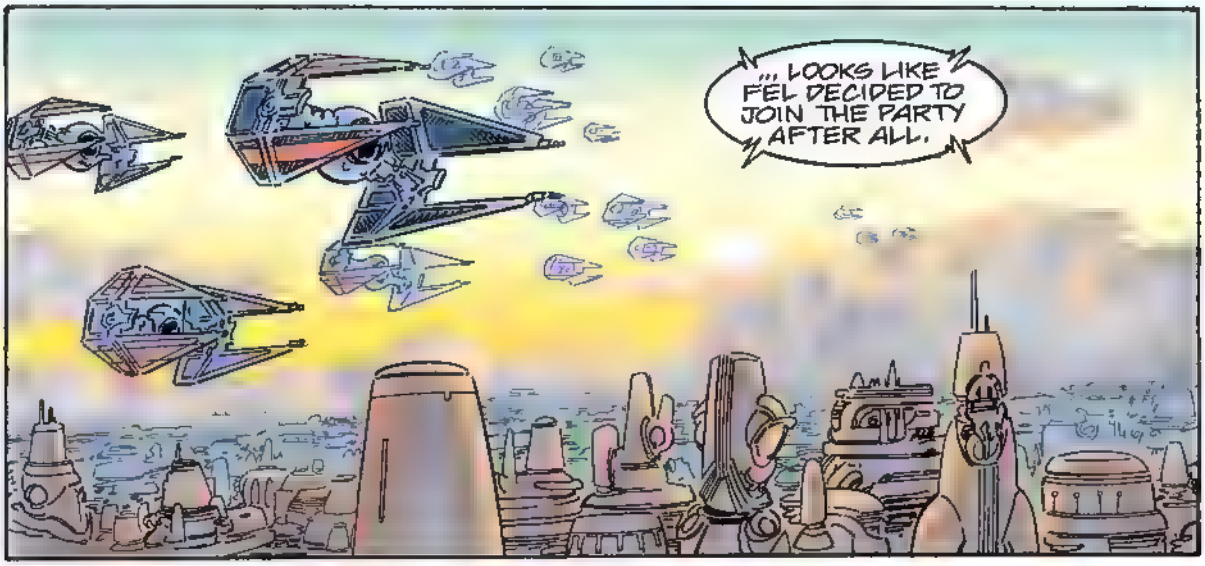
NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE PLAYING POLITICS AND WORKING TO RULE THE EMPIRE YOURSELF, BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE MAKING MY MEN PAY FOR IT.
BECAUSE THE 181ST IMPERIAL FIGHTER GROUP IS HERE, OUR ENEMIES AND FRIENDS ALL BELIEVE WE INTEND TO WIN THIS FIGHT.
I INTEND FOR YOU TO WIN THIS FIGHT.
NO, YOU EXPECT US TO DIE PREVENTING THE REBELS FROM STOPPING THE EVACUATION AND LOOTING OF THIS WORLD.
THOSE SAVED WILL BE IMPRESSED AND SUPPORT YOU FOR SAVING THEM. AND THEY WILL KNOW IT WAS YOU, I'M SURE.
YOU WILL ENABLE THEM TO ESCAPE.
I WILL SAVE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE IMPERIAL CITIZENS AND THAT IS MY DUTY.
AND I WILL SAVE THE EMPIRE BECAUSE THAT IS MY DUTY. YOUR SACRIFICE WILL BE FETED ON THOUSANDS OF WORLDS.
WO-EE-WO-EE-WO-EE


DELICE, ROLL HARD PORT NOW!
I COPY, TWELVE, WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
GOT HIM!
STANDRO, YOU HAVE A TAIL.
I COPY, DELICE, BUT I'M KIND OF BOXED IN HERE.
PULL OUT OF THERE, TWELVE!
TRYING, LEAD!
YOUR BACK IS CLEAR.
I'M HIT!

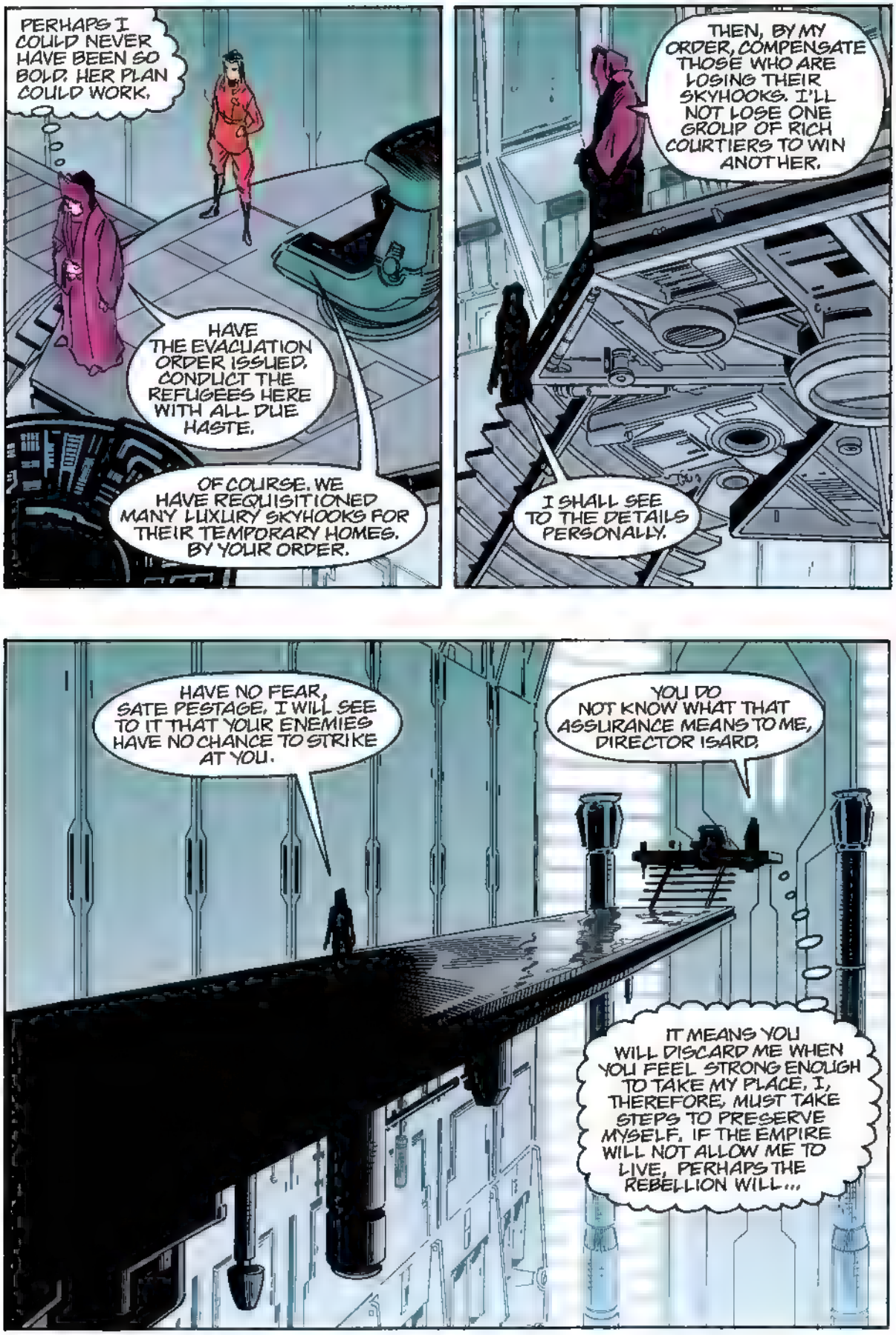

DID HE PUNCH OUT?
NO BEACON, WEDGE. STANDRO IS GONE.

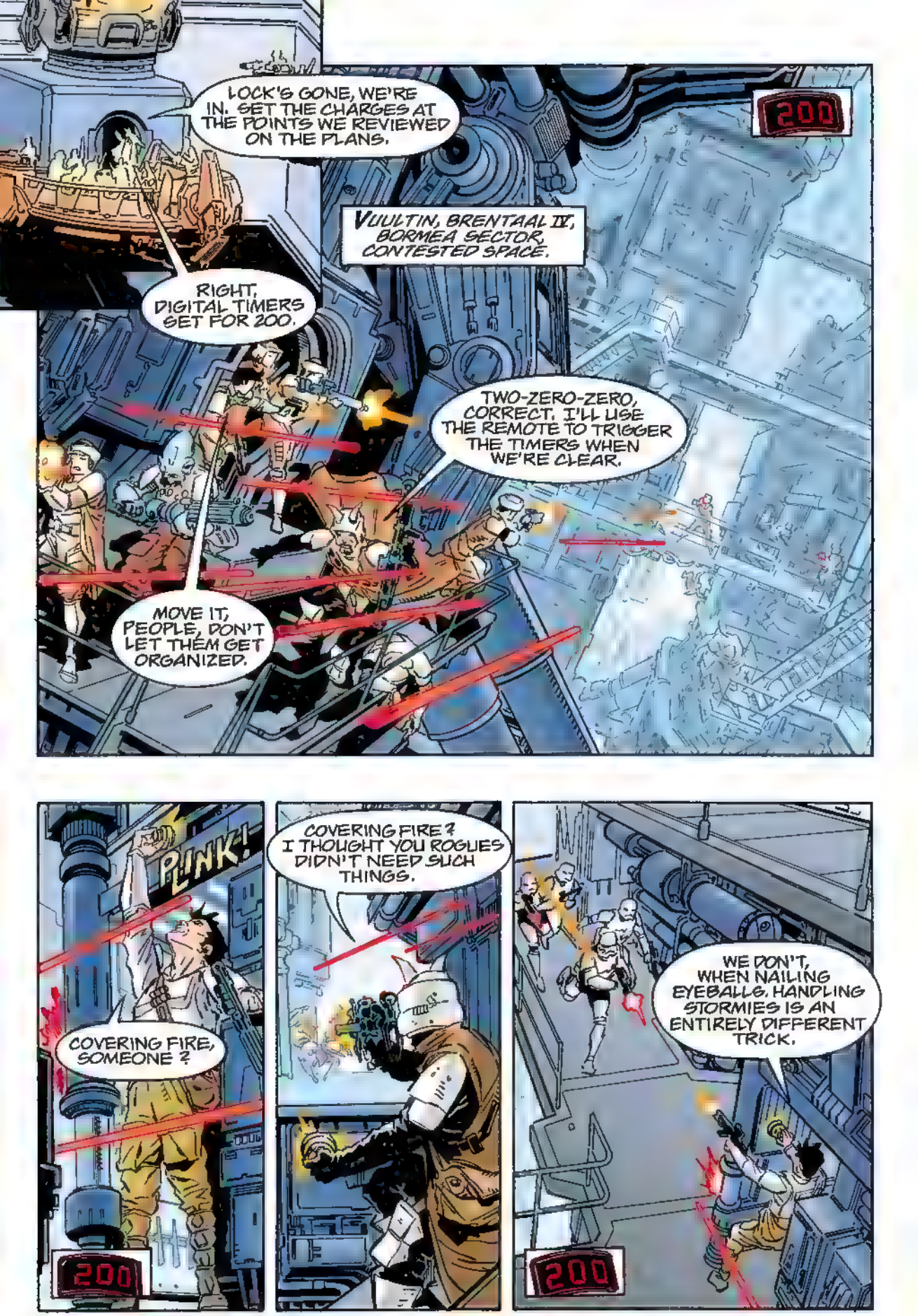
WE'RE STARTING OUR RUN ON THE SPACEPORT. WILL CHASE RUNNERS AFTER THAT.
I COPY, COLONEL.


BE CAREFUL, COLONEL. SOME OF THESE YACHTS CAN LIGHT YOU UP.
WE KNOW. I'M MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE NEW CONTACTS...


... LOOKS LIKE FEL DECIDED TO JOIN THE PARTY AFTER ALL.

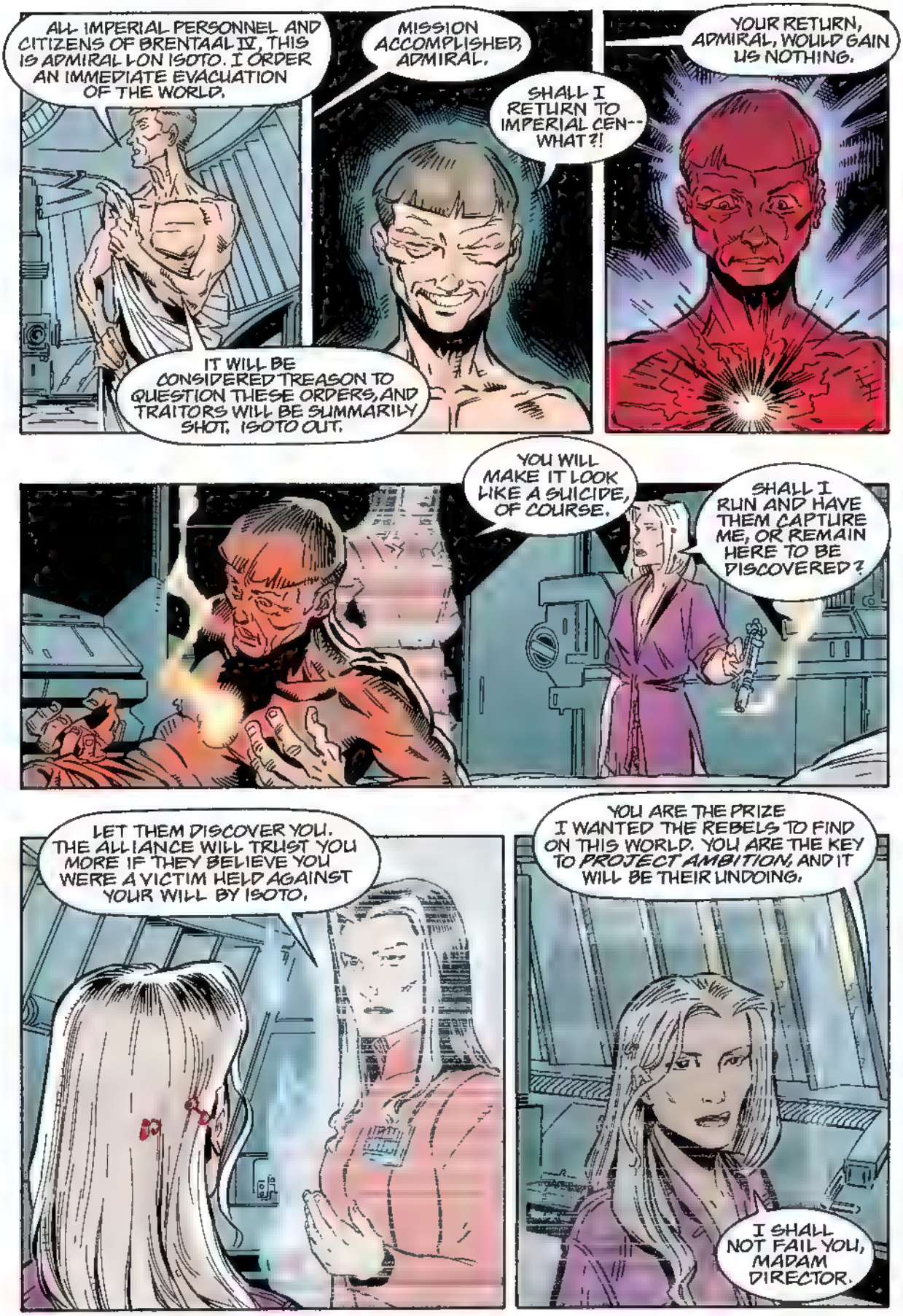
CORUSCANT, IMPERIAL SANCTUM
YOU ISSUED CLEARANCE ORDERS OVER MY SIGNATURE TO SEND AN EVACUATION FLEET TO BRENTAAL IV. TWELVE HOURS AGO! WHEN WERE YOU GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT IT?
WHEN YOU HAD A NEED TO KNOW.
I AM IN COMMAND HERE, NOT YOU! IF YOU ARE EVACUATING, YOU ARE ADMITTING YOU HAVE LOST BRENTAAL IV.
THIS WAS YOUR PLAN ALL ALONG, WASN'T IT? TO RUIN ME.
WHAT I HAVE DONE IS TO PRESERVE THE EMPIRE YOU COMMAND. YES, I SOUGHT TO LOSE BRENTAAL IV BECAUSE NOW YOUR RIVALS HAVE LOST THEIR POWER BASE. THEY CAN ONLY RETURN IF YOU UNDERTAKE TO LET THEM RETURN. YOU HAVE THEM.
THE FLEET IS THERE TO LET YOU ISSUE THE EVACUATION ORDER. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO, THE SLAUGHTER WILL BE INCREDIBLE. IF YOU DO, YOU SAVE THEM ALL.
THIS HAS BEEN MY INTENT, BUT HAD YOU KNOWN OF IT, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED ME TO ACT.


PERHAPS I COULD NEVER HAVE BEEN SO BOLD. HER PLAN COULD WORK.
HAVE THE EVACUATION ORDER ISSUED. CONDUCT THE REFUGEES HERE WITH ALL DUE HASTE.
OF COURSE. WE HAVE REQUISITIONED MANY LUXURY SKYHOOKS FOR THEIR TEMPORARY HOMES. BY YOUR ORDER.
THEN, BY MY ORDER, COMPENSATE THOSE WHO ARE LOSING THEIR SKYHOOKS. I'LL NOT LOSE ONE GROUP OF RICH COURTIERS TO WIN ANOTHER.
I SHALL SEE TO THE DETAILS PERSONALLY.
HAVE NO FEAR, SATE PESTAGE. I WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOUR ENEMIES HAVE NO CHANCE TO STRIKE AT YOU.
YOU DO NOT KNOW WHAT THAT ASSURANCE MEANS TO ME, DIRECTOR ISARD.
IT MEANS YOU WILL DISCARD ME WHEN YOU FEEL STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE MY PLACE. I, THEREFORE, MUST TAKE STEPS TO PRESERVE MYSELF. IF THE EMPIRE WILL NOT ALLOW ME TO LIVE, PERHAPS THE REBELLION WILL...

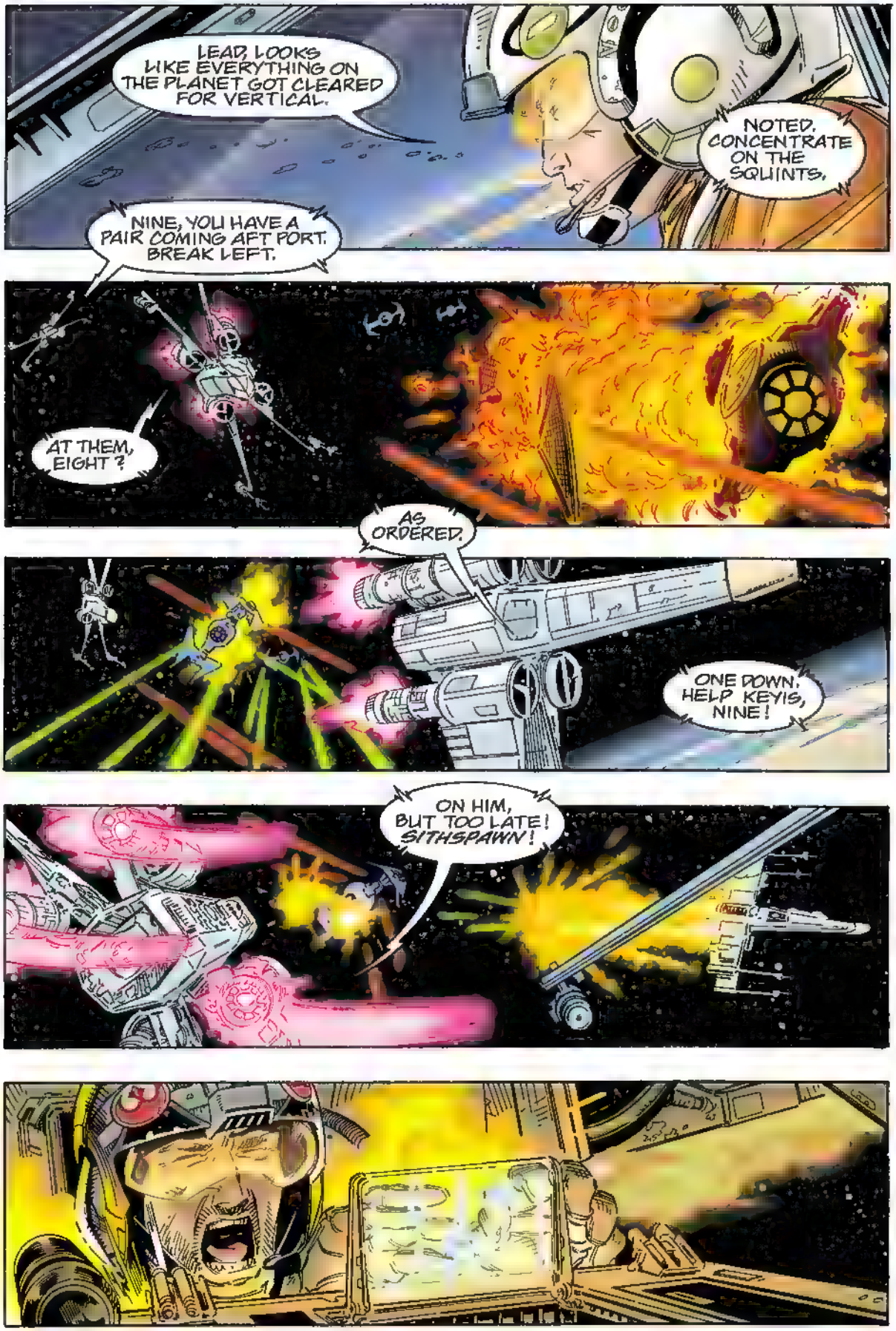

LOCK'S GONE, WE'RE IN. SET THE CHARGES AT THE POINTS WE REVIEWED ON THE PLANS.
200
VUULTIN, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, CONTESTED SPACE.
RIGHT, DIGITAL TIMERS SET FOR 200.
TWO-ZERO-ZERO, CORRECT. I'LL USE THE REMOTE TO TRIGGER THE TIMERS WHEN WE'RE CLEAR.
MOVE IT, PEOPLE, DON'T LET THEM GET ORGANIZED.
PLINK!
COVERING FIRE, SOMEONE ?
200
COVERING FIRE ? I THOUGHT YOU ROGUES DIDN'T NEED SUCH THINGS.
WE DON'T, WHEN NAILING EYEBALLS. HANDLING STORMIES IS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT TRICK.
200

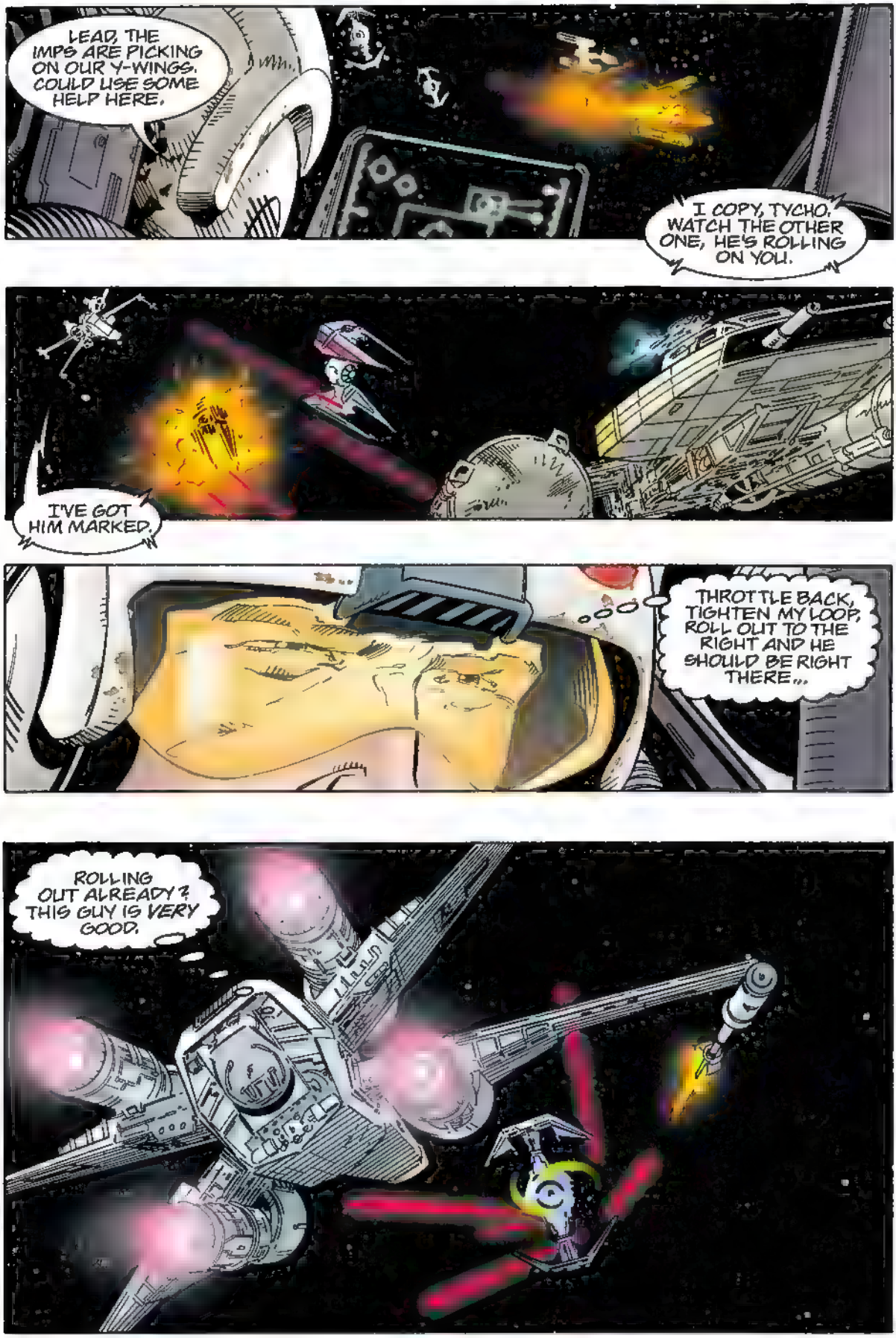
I LEARN NEW TRICKS EASILY, JANSON. AND TEACH HARD LESSONS...
FIRE'S GETTING HEAVY. HOW CLOSE TO DONE ARE YOU?
LAST ONE IN PLACE NOW--
YOWTCH
YEAH, MINE ARE ALL SET, TOO.
ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR WHAT WE DO NOW?
ONLY ONE. I JUST HIT THE REMOTE. RUN!
CLICK!

ARISE, ADMIRAL ION ISOTO. YOUR GREATEST ACT FOR THE EMPIRE AWAITS YOU!
YEAAGHH! DIRECTOR ISARD! HOW... SURPRISING... TO SEE YOU.
YOU ARE TO ORDER THE IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF BRENTAAL IV.
BUT WE ARE WINNING!
YOU HAVE LURED THE REBELS INTO OUR TRAP.
YOUR TRAP? OF COURSE, I THOUGHT SO. AND THE EVACUATION WILL SPRING IT?
IT WILL. THE ORDER, PLEASE.
MY PLEASURE. FOR THE EMPIRE, OF COURSE.
OF COURSE.

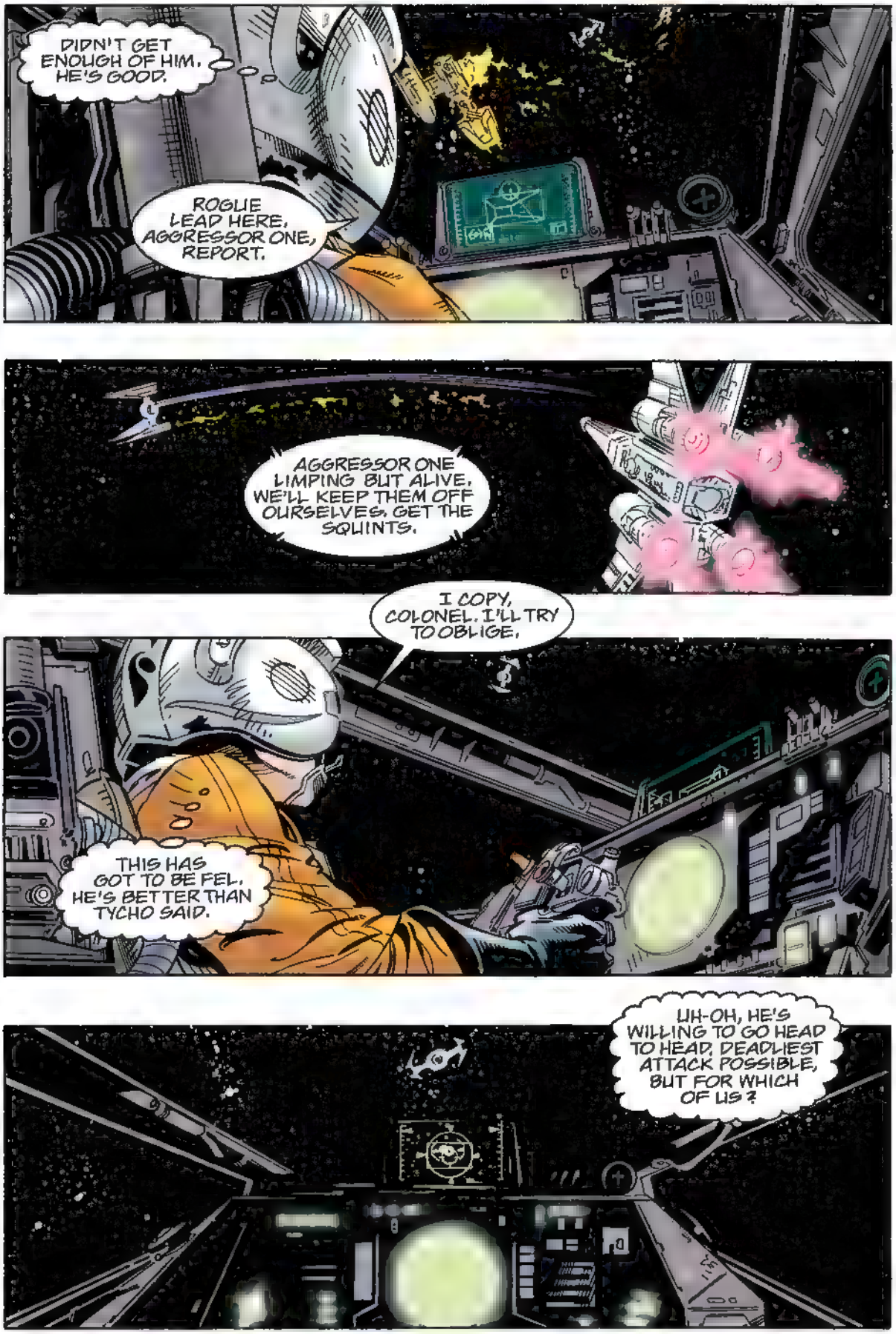

ALL IMPERIAL PERSONNEL AND CITIZENS OF BRENTAAL IV, THIS IS ADMIRAL LON ISOTO. I ORDER AN IMMEDIATE EVACUATION OF THE WORLD.
IT WILL BE CONSIDERED TREASON TO QUESTION THESE ORDERS, AND TRAITORS WILL BE SUMMARILY SHOT. ISOTO OUT.
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, ADMIRAL.
SHALL I RETURN TO IMPERIAL CEN-- WHAT?!
YOUR RETURN, ADMIRAL, WOULD GAIN US NOTHING.
YOU WILL MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE, OF COURSE.
SHALL I RUN AND HAVE THEM CAPTURE ME, OR REMAIN HERE TO BE DISCOVERED?
LET THEM DISCOVER YOU. THE ALLIANCE WILL TRUST YOU MORE IF THEY BELIEVE YOU WERE A VICTIM HELD AGAINST YOUR WILL BY ISOTO.
YOU ARE THE PRIZE I WANTED THE REBELS TO FIND ON THIS WORLD. YOU ARE THE KEY TO *PROJECT AMBITION*, AND IT WILL BE THEIR UNDOING.
I SHALL NOT FAIL YOU, MADAM DIRECTOR.

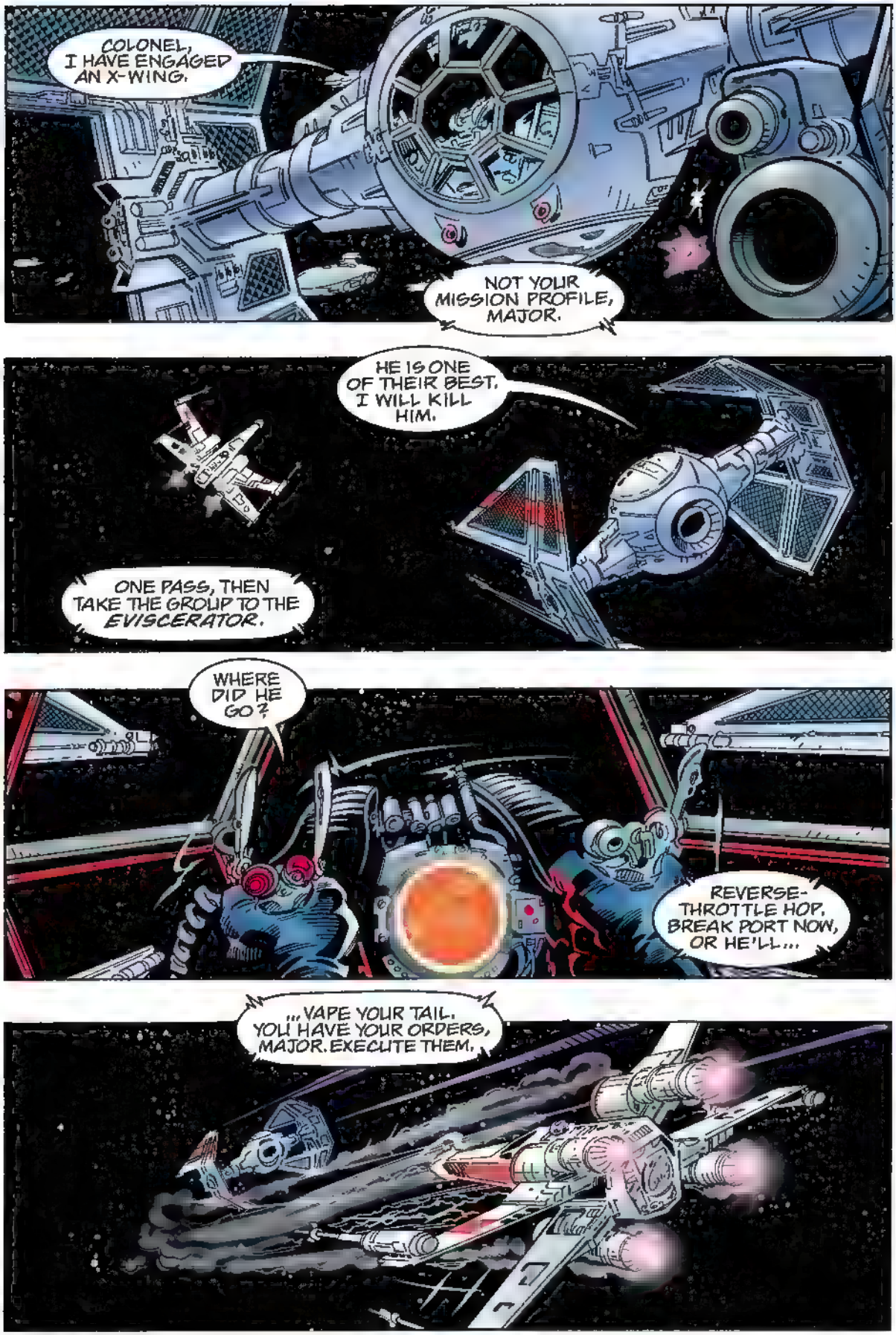
YOU HIT THE REMOTE TOO SOON. 200 SECONDS IS ENOUGH TIME FOR THE IMPS TO DISARM THE BOMBS.
AGREED, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THAT LONG.
YOU THINK TIME RUNS FASTER HERE OR SOMETHING. DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M NOT HAVING FUN.
THE TIMERS CAME FROM BINARY LOAD LIFTERS. 200 ON THEM MEANS...
...EIGHT SECONDS, NOT 200! WE BARELY GOT AWAY IN TIME!

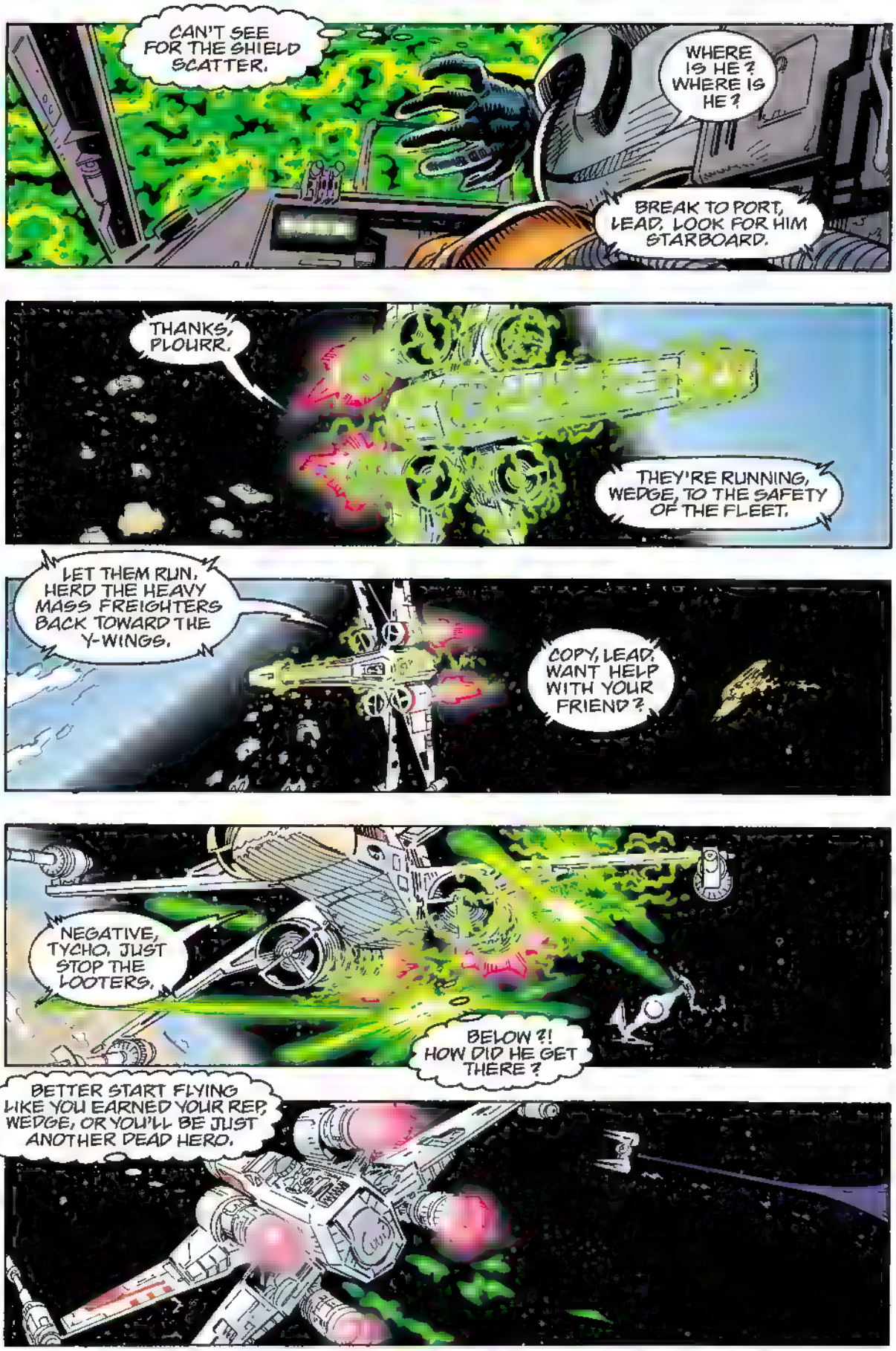

LEAD, LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING ON THE PLANET GOT CLEARED FOR VERTICAL.
NOTED. CONCENTRATE ON THE SQUINTS.
NINE, YOU HAVE A PAIR COMING AFT PORT. BREAK LEFT.
AT THEM, EIGHT?
AS ORDERED.
ONE DOWN. HELP KEYIS, NINE!
ON HIM, BUT TOO LATE! SITHSPAWN!

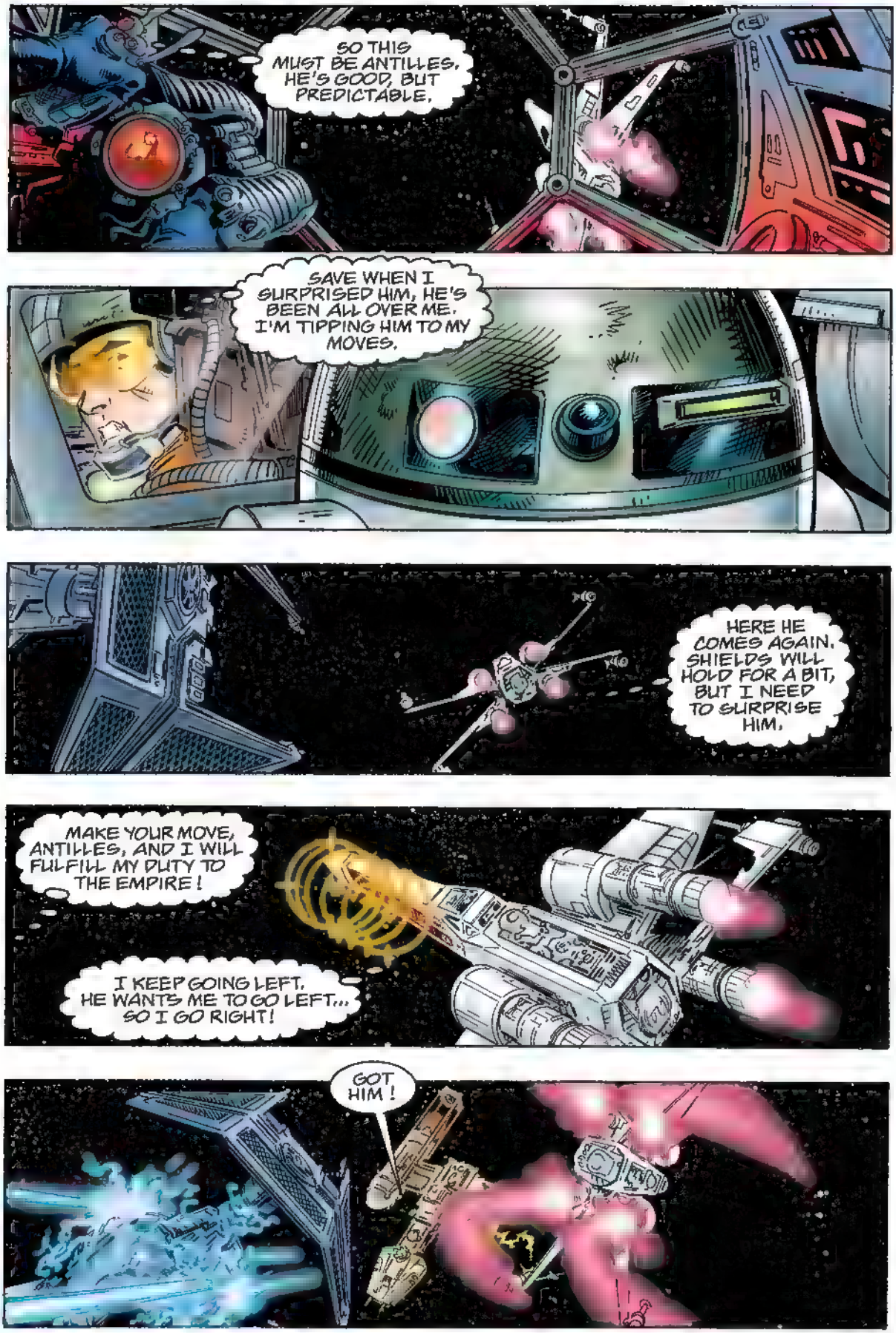

LEAD, THE IMPS ARE PICKING ON OUR Y-WINGS. COULD USE SOME HELP HERE.
I COPY, TYCHO. WATCH THE OTHER ONE, HE'S ROLLING ON YOU.
I'VE GOT HIM MARKED.
THROTTLE BACK, TIGHTEN MY LOOP, ROLL OUT TO THE RIGHT AND HE SHOULD BE RIGHT THERE...
ROLLING OUT ALREADY? THIS GUY IS VERY GOOD.

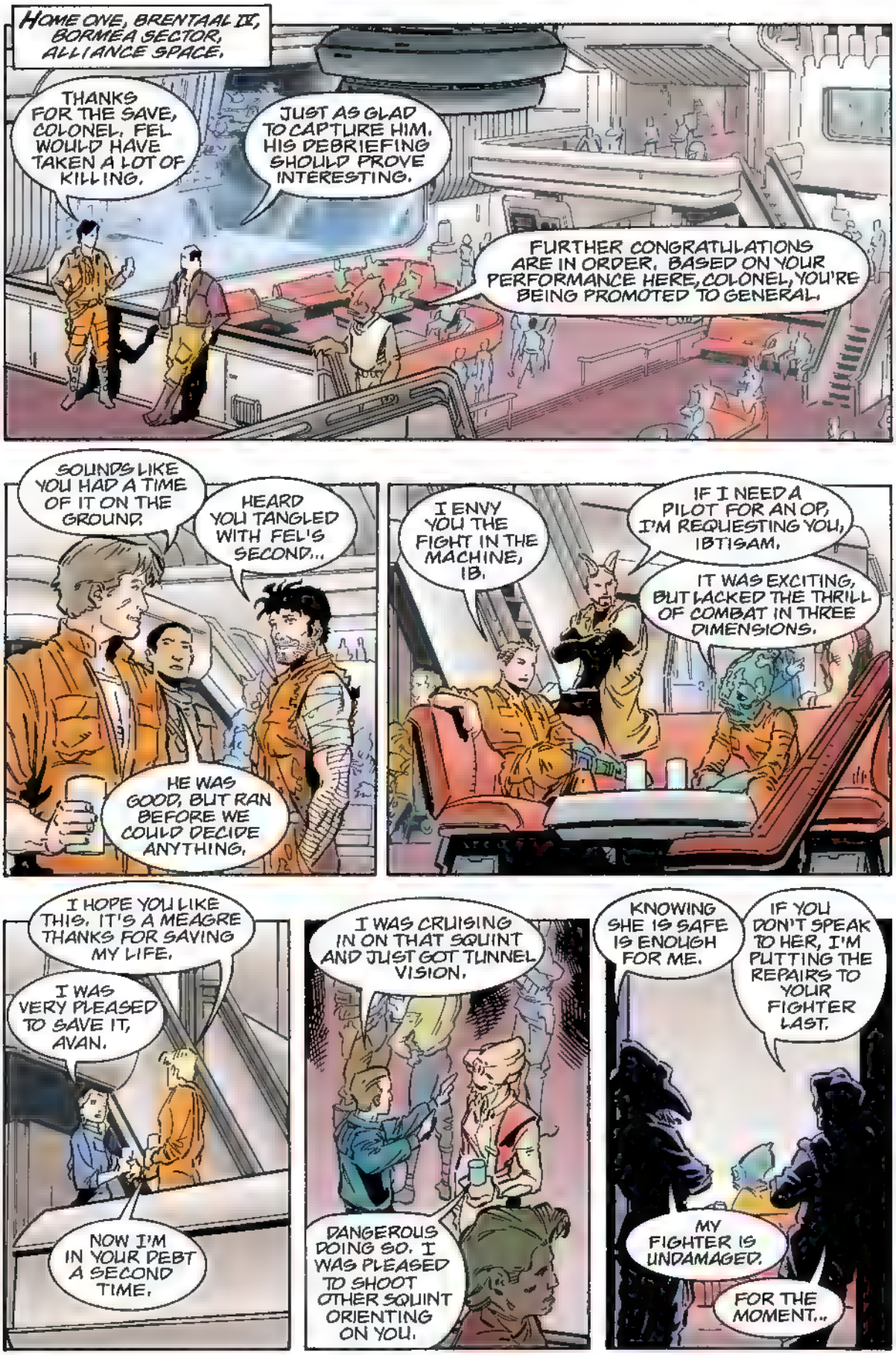
THE Y-WINGS ARE STAYING ON MISSION DESPITE OUR ATTACKS. GOOD TRAINING, GOOD LEADER.
I'M ON THE Y-WING LEADER. CONCENTRATE ON THE Y-WINGS.
STRIPPED OF THEIR LEADER, THE Y-WINGS SHOULD FAIL.
OR ARE THESE REBELS TRULY DIFFERENT FROM OUR EMPIRE ?
I RECALL WHEN THE EMPIRE HAD THEIR DETERMINATION AND DRIVE.
GOT HIM !
SITHSPAWN ! WHERE'D HE COME FROM ?


DIDN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIM. HE'S GOOD.
ROGUE LEAD HERE, AGGRESSOR ONE, REPORT.
AGGRESSOR ONE LIMPING BUT ALIVE. WE'LL KEEP THEM OFF OURSELVES. GET THE SQUINTS.
I COPY, COLONEL. I'LL TRY TO OBLIGE.
THIS HAS GOT TO BE FEL. HE'S BETTER THAN TYCHO SAID.
UH-OH, HE'S WILLING TO GO HEAD TO HEAD, DEADLIEST ATTACK POSSIBLE, BUT FOR WHICH OF US?


COLONEL, I HAVE ENGAGED AN X-WING.
NOT YOUR MISSION PROFILE, MAJOR.
HE IS ONE OF THEIR BEST. I WILL KILL HIM.
ONE PASS, THEN TAKE THE GROUP TO THE EVISCERATOR.
WHERE DID HE GO?
REVERSE-THROTTLE HOP, BREAK PORT NOW, OR HE'LL...
...VAPE YOUR TAIL. YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, MAJOR. EXECUTE THEM.

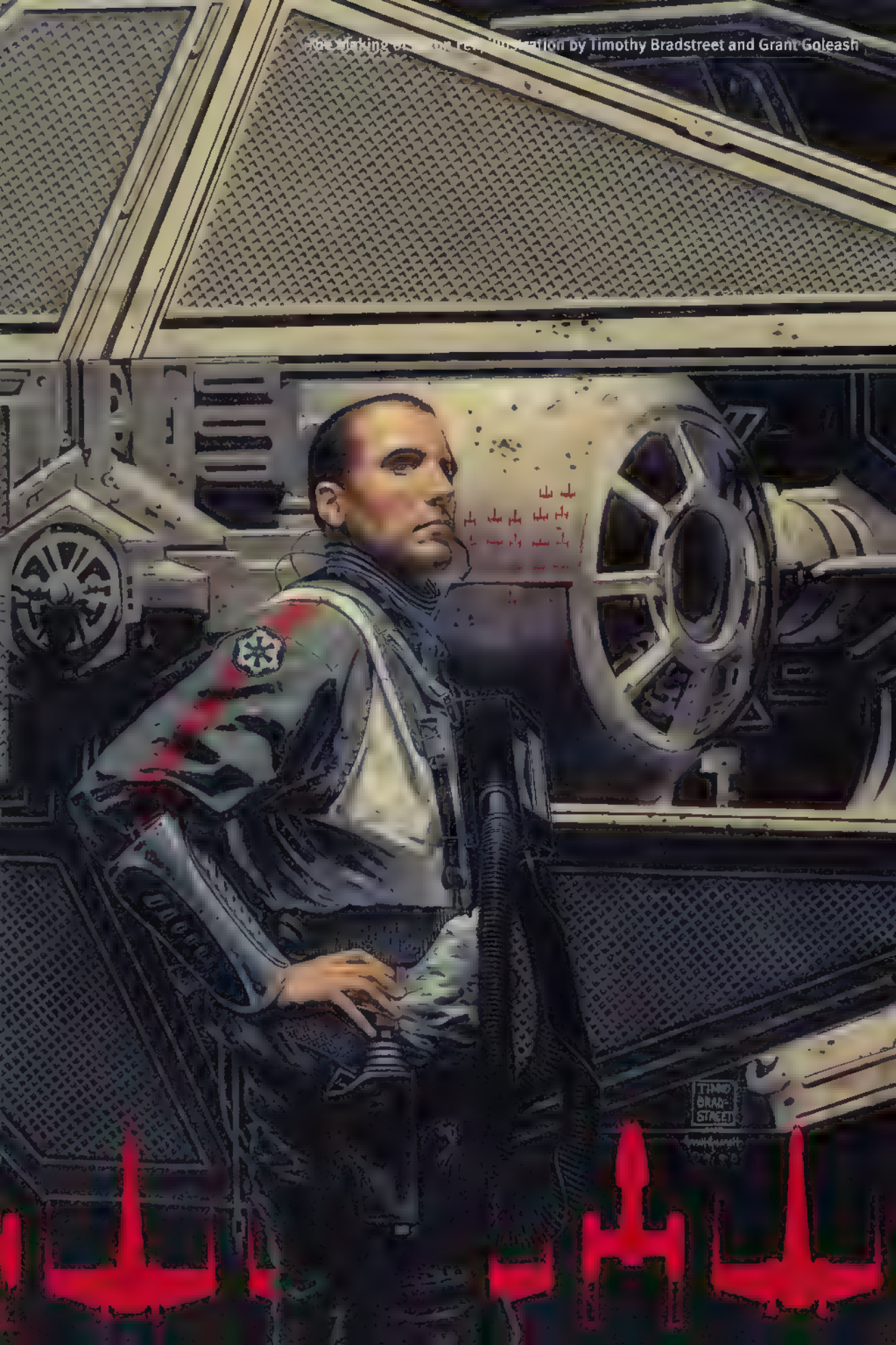

CAN'T SEE FOR THE SHIELD SCATTER.
WHERE IS HE? WHERE IS HE?
BREAK TO PORT, LEAD. LOOK FOR HIM STARBOARD.
THANKS, PLOURR.
THEY'RE RUNNING, WEDGE, TO THE SAFETY OF THE FLEET.
LET THEM RUN. HERD THE HEAVY MASS FREIGHTERS BACK TOWARD THE Y-WINGS.
COPY, LEAD. WANT HELP WITH YOUR FRIEND?
NEGATIVE, TYCHO. JUST STOP THE LOOTERS.
BELOW?! HOW DID HE GET THERE?
BETTER START FLYING LIKE YOU EARNED YOUR REP, WEDGE, OR YOU'LL BE JUST ANOTHER DEAD HERO.


SO THIS MUST BE ANTILLES. HE'S GOOD, BUT PREDICTABLE.
SAVE WHEN I SURPRISED HIM, HE'S BEEN ALL OVER ME. I'M TIPPING HIM TO MY MOVES.
HERE HE COMES AGAIN. SHIELDS WILL HOLD FOR A BIT, BUT I NEED TO SURPRISE HIM.
MAKE YOUR MOVE, ANTILLES, AND I WILL FULFILL MY DUTY TO THE EMPIRE!
I KEEP GOING LEFT. HE WANTS ME TO GO LEFT... SO I GO RIGHT!
GOT HIM!


HOME ONE, BRENTAAL IV, BORMEA SECTOR, ALLIANCE SPACE.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, COLONEL. FEL WOULD HAVE TAKEN A LOT OF KILLING.
JUST AS GLAD TO CAPTURE HIM. HIS DEBRIEFING SHOULD PROVE INTERESTING.
FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER. BASED ON YOUR PERFORMANCE HERE, COLONEL, YOU'RE BEING PROMOTED TO GENERAL.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A TIME OF IT ON THE GROUND.
HEARD YOU TANGLED WITH FEL'S SECOND...
HE WAS GOOD, BUT RAN BEFORE WE COULD DECIDE ANYTHING.
I ENVY YOU THE FIGHT IN THE MACHINE, IB.
IF I NEED A PILOT FOR AN OP, I'M REQUESTING YOU, IBTISAM.
IT WAS EXCITING, BUT LACKED THE THRILL OF COMBAT IN THREE DIMENSIONS.
I HOPE YOU LIKE THIS. IT'S A MEAGRE THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE.
I WAS VERY PLEASED TO SAVE IT, AVAN.
NOW I'M IN YOUR DEBT A SECOND TIME.
I WAS CRUISING IN ON THAT SQUINT AND JUST GOT TUNNEL VISION.
DANGEROUS DOING SO. I WAS PLEASED TO SHOOT OTHER SQUINT ORIENTING ON YOU.
KNOWING SHE IS SAFE IS ENOUGH FOR ME.
IF YOU DON'T SPEAK TO HER, I'M PUTTING THE REPAIRS TO YOUR FIGHTER LAST.
MY FIGHTER IS UNDAMAGED.
FOR THE MOMENT...

THE TREASONOUS PEOPLE WHOSE PLOTTING ALLOWED THE REBELS TO TAKE BRENTAAL IV DIED FOR THEIR PERFIDY. I WELCOME YOU, THE LOYAL SURVIVORS HERE, WITH THE PROMISE THAT YOUR SUFFERING...
RANT ON ABOUT YOUR ENEMIES!
PESTAGE WILL LOSE THE EMPIRE AS HE DID BRENTAAL IV.
THE TIME TO STRIKE WILL COME VERY SOON... BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.
PLOT YOUR LITTLE POWER PLAYS.
DO WHAT YOU WANT, I DO NOT CARE. WHEN I ACT, YOUR PLANS WILL BE FOR NAUGHT, AND THE EMPIRE WILL BE MINE.

YOU LOOK SURPRISED TO SEE ME, CAPTAIN ANTILLES.
NOT TO SEE YOU, SIR, BUT TO HAVE HAD YOU SEND FOR ME.
I KNOW YOU'RE FROM CORELLIA, LIKE ME, BUT I DON'T KNOW YOU, DO I?
NO, NO YOU DO NOT.
IT WAS JUST THAT I PROMISED MY WIFE THAT IF I EVER HAD THE CHANCE, I WOULD REMEMBER HER TO YOU.
YOUR WIFE? DO I KNOW HER?
I HOPE SO. SHE'S QUITE FOND OF YOU; BUT THEN YOU'D EXPECT THAT OF YOUR SISTER, WOULDN'T YOU?


Cover by Timothy Bradstreet and Grant Goleash

APPROXIMATELY TEN MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF ENDOR . . .

story by Michael A. Stackpole
script by Steve Crespo
pencils by John Nadeau
inks by Chip Wallace and Gary Martin
colors by Dave Nestelle, Perry McNamee
letters by Vickie Williams

IT FEELS FUNNY BEING HERE THIS WAY.
WHY IS THAT ?
EXCEPT FOR AN ACCIDENT OF CIRCUMSTANCE, I WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR LUKE SKYWALKER, AND HE COULD HAVE BEEN ME...
...AFTER ALL, WE WERE BOTH FARMBOYS WHO LOVED TO FLY...

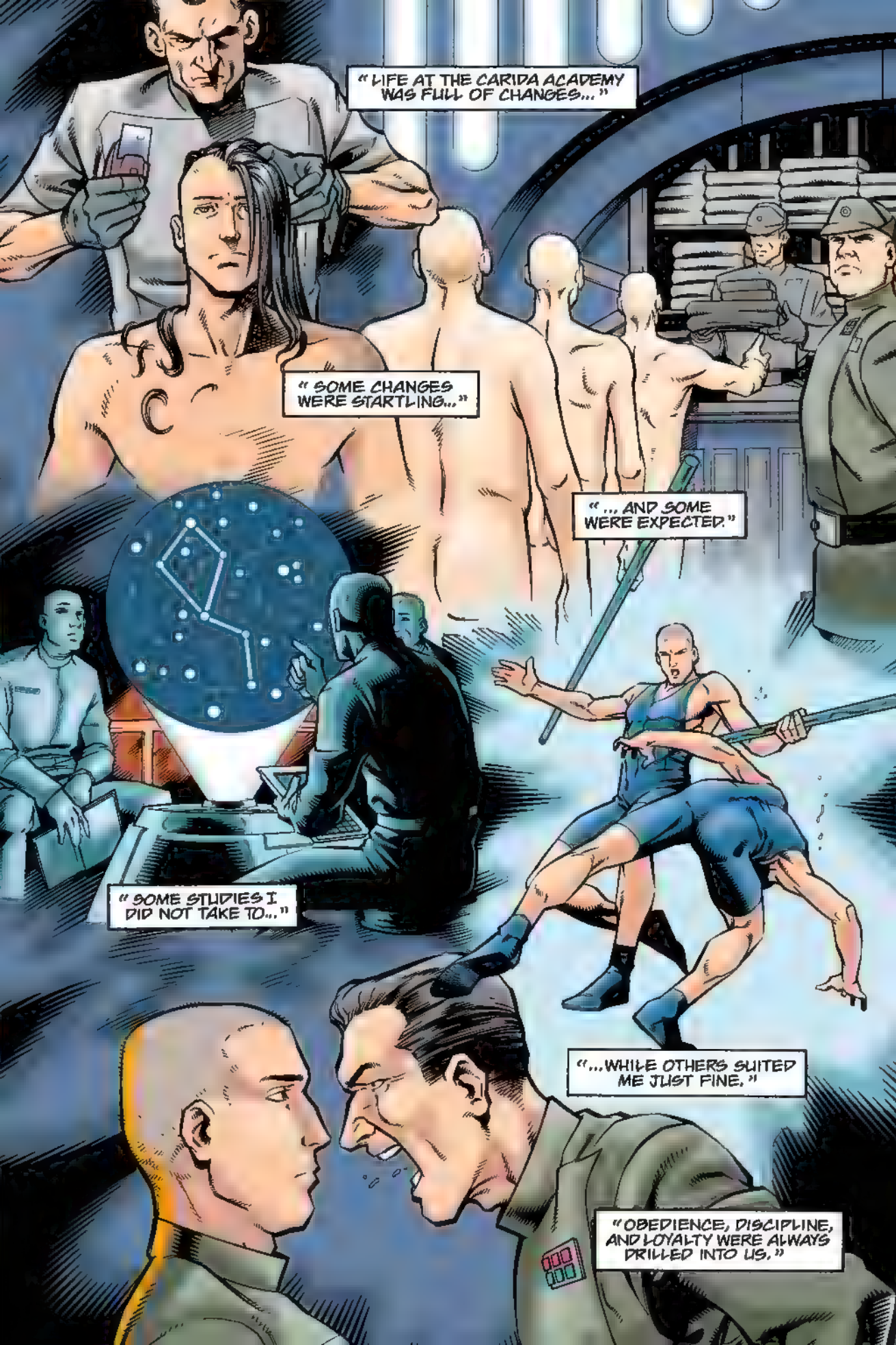
"THE AGRO-COMBINE WHERE I GREW UP WAS SO HUGE, WE HAD TO FLY EVERYWHERE..."
"MY FATHER FLEW FOR AGR, BUT AFTER BEING ACCIDENTALLY POISONED, I SECRETLY DID HIS FLYING FOR HIM..."
"MY MOTHER WORKED FOR AGR, TOO, AS DID MOST ALL OF MY RELATIONS. IT WAS HARD WORK, BUT GOOD WORK."
"MY FAMILY HAD A GOOD LIFE; AND AGR'S HARVEST FESTIVAL WAS A TIME WE CHERISHED AND CELEBRATED."
AND THE WINNER IS, SOONTIR FEL!

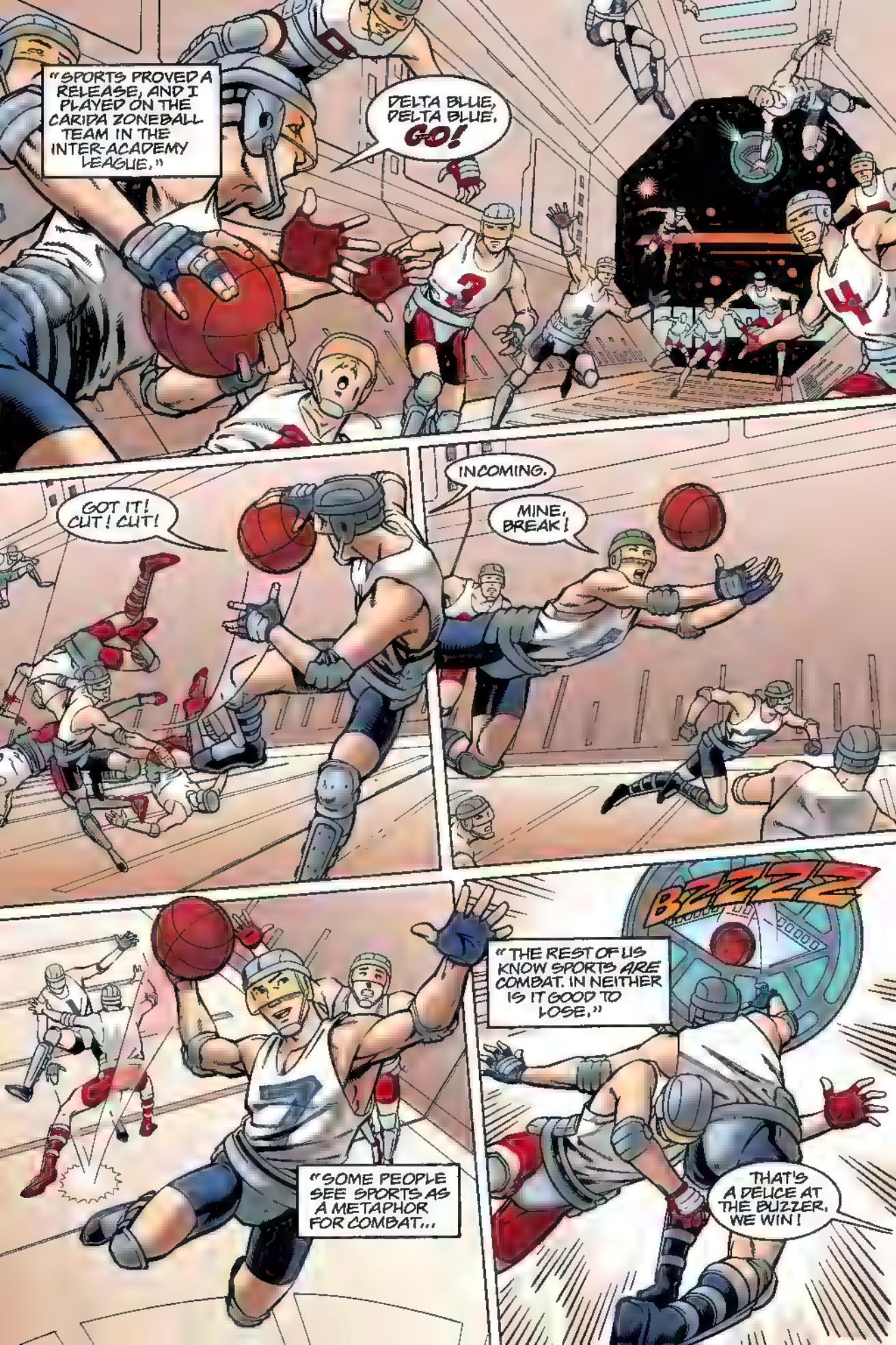
I KNEW YOU'D DO IT, SON. YOU WON.
SECOND YEAR RUNNING, TOO.
IT WAS A TOUGH RACE.
THE REST OF THEM LOOKED LIKE HUTTS GOING UP A GREASED HILL.
BUT YOU WON GOING AWAY.
SO HE WON. NOW CAN WE EAT?
I'M PROUD OF YOU; YOUR WINNING AND YOUR COVERING FOR ME...
WE'RE A FAMILY. FAMILY DOES FOR FAMILY.
IF THAT WERE TRUE, I'D BE EATING ALREADY.
THOSE WOULDN'T BE RYSHCATE CRUMBS ON YOUR TUNIC, WOULD THEY?
OOPS.
I'VE TALKED WITH MY BOSS, IVR DROP, ABOUT LETTING YOU HAVE MY JOB, NOW THAT YOU ARE EIGHTEEN.
I DON'T WANT TO TAKE YOUR JOB FROM YOU.
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU DO IT NOW, ANYWAY. I'LL JUST STAY IN THE DEPARTMENT SHOP WHILE YOU MAKE FIELD REPAIRS.
SO WE WOULD BOTH BE WORKING FOR AGR?
COULD ANYTHING BE BETTER?
A TOAST TO MY SON-- THE BEST PILOT AND BEST MAN ON CORELLIA.

"I REMEMBER THAT FESTIVAL FONDLY. MY LIFE COURSE WAS PLOTTED. I WAS HAPPY."
NO. WAIT--
"THAT CHANGED."
I SAID NO!
SO SAYS YOUR MOUTH, BUT YOUR BODY WANTS THE HARVEST GIFT I HAVE FOR YOU.
LEAVE HER ALONE.
OR WHAT?
OR I FIND A VIBROBLADE AND HARVEST YOUR PRESENT FOR HER.
"FARM KIDS LEARN TO PLAY ROUGH..."
WUMP!
WOP!
CRACK!
"THE CHILDREN OF MANAGEMENT ARE SOFT."
GO HOME, PAMR. I'LL DEAL WITH THEM.
DEAL WITH US? HOW? AGR OWNS THE LOCAL POLICE. YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO US.

"POST WAS RIGHT, SO I CALLED IN THE CORELLIAN SECURITY FORCE."
I HAVE YOUR STATEMENT, SOONTIR. WE'LL PICK POST UP. WITH YOUR TESTIMONY AT TRIAL, HE'LL GET A NICE KESSEL VACATION.
I'LL TESTIFY, DON'T WORRY. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, INSPECTOR HORN.
I HOPE MY SON GROWS UP TO BE AS RESPONSIBLE AS YOU ARE.
"FOR INSPECTOR HORN'S SAKE, I HOPED HIS SON DID NOT..."
SOONTIR, THEY WANT YOU AT SECTOR HQ. NOW!
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A JOB. WHY DO THEY WANT ME?
I JUST OBEY THE BOSSES. YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD. MAYBE IT'S YOUR WAGE REVIEW.
A MONTH IS TOO SOON FOR A WAGE REVIEW.
I'M SOONTIR FEL.
YES, DIRECTOR DROP IS EXPECTING YOU.
COME IN, MY BOY. YOU'VE BEEN DOING EXCELLENT WORK. IT WILL BE A SHAME TO LOSE YOU.
LOSE ME, SIR?
I'M AFRAID SO. A CORELLIAN SENATORIAL APPOINTMENT TO THE IMPERIAL NAVAL ACADEMY HAS COME THROUGH FOR YOU. YOU'LL LEAVE BY WEEK'S END FOR CARIDA.

BUT I ASKED FOR NO SUCH APPOINTMENT.
YOUR WINNING THE FESTIVAL RACE ATTRACTED ATTENTION.
BUT NEXT WEEK I AM TO TESTIFY AT THE POST TRIAL.
I GUESS YOU'LL MISS IT. OF COURSE, WHILE YOU'RE IN THE EMPIRE'S SERVICE, AGR WILL BE PROUD TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY.
AND IF I DO NOT GO?
THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT YOUR FATHER LET UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL USE AGR EQUIPMENT.
YOU MEAN ME, WHEN I FLEW HIM AROUND.
AGR TAKES CARE OF ITS OWN.
AND THIS APPOINTMENT TAKES CARE OF HIR POST, TOO.
KILLING TWO MYNOCKS WITH ONE BLASTER BOLT. TAKE THE APPOINTMENT AND WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR FAMILY.
IT SEEMS I HAVE BUT ONE CHOICE.
INSPECTOR HORN!
I THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU OFF.
I'M SORRY ABOUT...
DON'T BE. I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON POST. HE'LL MAKE ANOTHER MISTAKE. BY TAKING THIS APPOINTMENT, YOU'RE AVOIDING A MISTAKE THAT WOULD RUIN YOUR LIFE AND YOUR FAMILY. DON'T REGRET IT, JUST MAKE THE MOST OF IT.


"LIFE AT THE CARIDA ACADEMY WAS FULL OF CHANGES..."
"SOME CHANGES WERE STARTLING..."
"...AND SOME WERE EXPECTED."
"SOME STUDIES I DID NOT TAKE TO..."
"...WHILE OTHERS SUITED ME JUST FINE."
"OBEDIENCE, DISCIPLINE, AND LOYALTY WERE ALWAYS DRILLED INTO US."


"SPORTS PROVED A RELEASE, AND I PLAYED ON THE CARIDA ZONEBALL TEAM IN THE INTER-ACADEMY LEAGUE."
DELTA BLUE, DELTA BLUE, GO!
GOT IT! CUT! CUT!
INCOMING.
MINE, BREAK!
"SOME PEOPLE SEE SPORTS AS A METAPHOR FOR COMBAT...
"THE REST OF US KNOW SPORTS ARE COMBAT. IN NEITHER IS IT GOOD TO LOSE."
BZZZZZ
THAT'S A DELICE AT THE BUZZER. WE WIN!

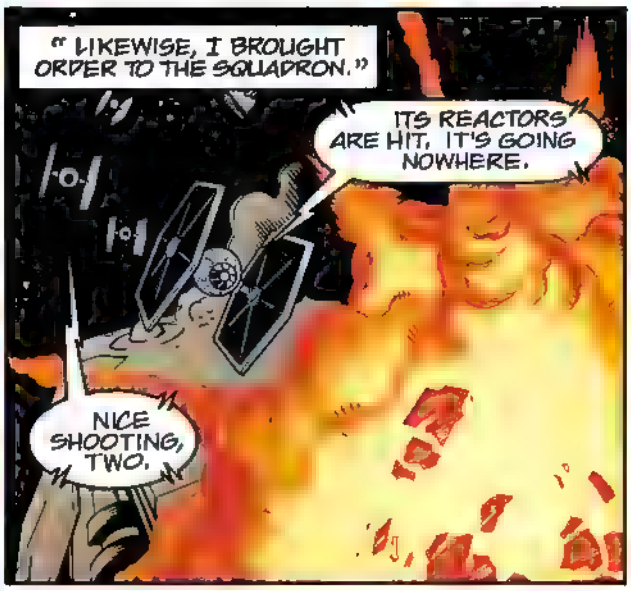
« WHAT I LOVED BEST AT THE ACADEMY WAS FLYING. »
THE SFS P-W401 ION MANEUVERING JETS ARE FED POWER FROM THE SIENAR FLEET SYSTEMS TWIN ION ENGINES.
OPEN IT UP, FEL. THIS IS *FORMATION* FLYING, NOT FUSION FLYING. YOU DON'T WANT TO HIT CADET SOLO, DO YOU ?
NO, FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE FLYING IT, YOU GOTTA MAKE SURE IT WILL FLY.
THAT'S IT, DELTA-NINE. YOU'VE BEEN VAPED.
WHY DO YOU PICK ON ME, FEL ?
C'MON, HASK, I SAVED YOU FOR LAST THIS TIME.

"YEARS OF HARD WORK PAID OFF."
CONGRATULATIONS, LT. FEL. BEING THIS CLASS'S SALUTATORIAN IS QUITE AN HONOR.
BUT IT DOES NOT COMPARE WITH THE HONOR OF SERVING THE EMPIRE.
I SHALL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT... AND YOU, LT. FEL.
SO, WHERE DID YOU GET ASSIGNED, FEL? WHAT'S THIS YEAR'S HOT SLOT?
37TH IMPERIAL FIGHTER WING, SIXTH SQUADRON. CAPTAIN LUN TESSRA IS COMMANDING.
THE 37TH IS CLEANING UP THE LORTAN FANATICS. YOU'LL HAVE YOUR COMBAT WINGS BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
LT. SOONTIR FEL REPORTING FOR DUTY, SIR.
WELCOME TO THE ABROGATOR, FEL. IT WILL BE YOUR NEW HOME.
THE SQUADRON WILL BE MY HOME, SIR.
I'M SURE, LIEUTENANT.

" MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT WAS AT SALOCH*, STOPPING TUNROTH FROM DYING AT THE HANDS OF LORTAN FANATICS."
FEL, TAKE YOUR FLIGHT IN ON VECTOR 067. HIT THE RABBLE HARD. WE'LL FLY COVER.
AS ORDERED, SIR.
LEAD, WE ARE NEGATIVE FOR ANY AIRBORNE CONTACTS. WE DON'T NEED A COVER FLIGHT.
I MEAN, KILL THE ENEMY!
THE CAPTAIN KNOWS BEST. JUST DO YOUR DUTY AND SHOOT STRAIGHT.
" AND KILL WE DID THAT DAY...
YOU MEAN STRAFE STRAIGHT, SIR.
"...OR SLAUGHTER, DEPENDING UPON YOUR PERSPECTIVE."

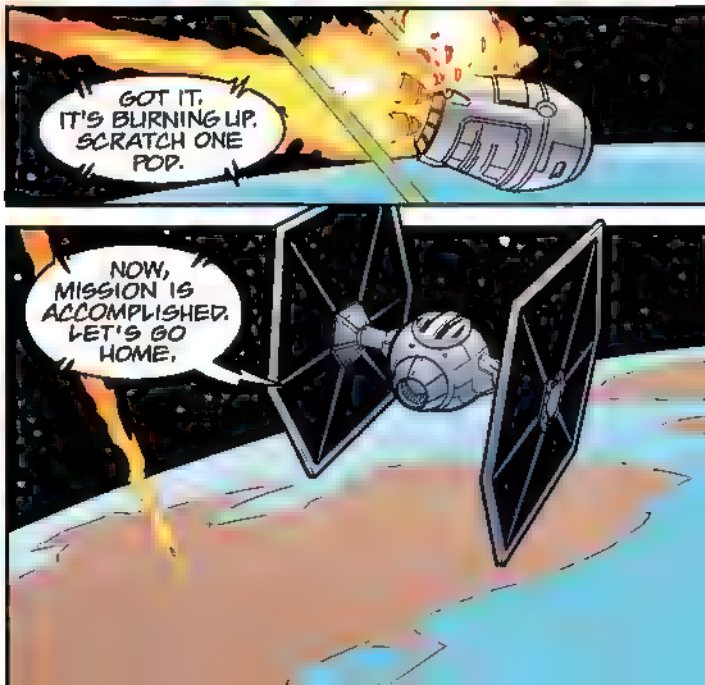
YOU DID GOOD OUT THERE, SIR. GOOD TO HAVE A LEADER IN THE SQUADRON.
CAPTAIN TESSRA IS OUR LEADER, FLIGHT OFFICER.
YES, SIR, BUT HE HAS THE TEMP-FLU.
TEMP-FLU? HE SHOULD SEE AN EMDEE DROID.
NO CURE FOR IT, SIR.
THEN HE SHOULDN'T BE FLYING.
OUR THOUGHTS EXACTLY, SIR.
I'M MISSING SOMETHING. WHAT IS THE TEMP-FLU?
A TIE TOUR OF DUTY IS ONE YEAR WHICH IS TOUGH TO MAKE. THE CAPTAIN, HE'S GOT THREE WEEKS LEFT...
SO HE HOLDS BACK, HOPING HE WON'T BE KILLED.
IF WE'D RUN INTO TROUBLE, I DON'T KNOW THAT HE WOULD HAVE COME FOR US.
HE WOULDN'T FAIL HIS DUTY LIKE THAT.
TEMP-FLU DOES SOMETHING TO A MAN, SIR. NONE OF US WANT TO DIE, EITHER.
YOU WON'T. I'LL SEE TO THAT MYSELF.
TIGHTEN IT UP, ZELEN, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, FLY LIKE IT!

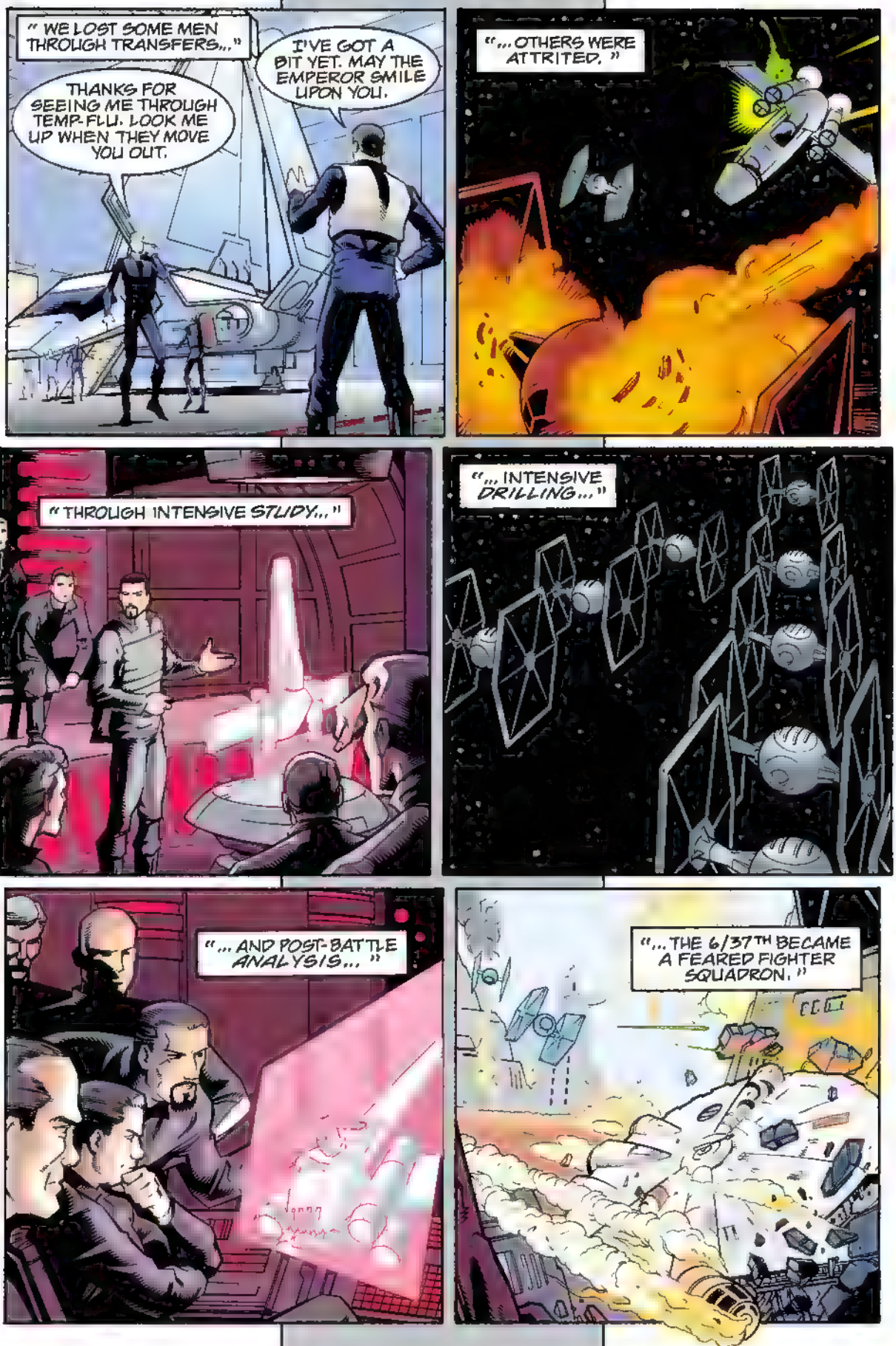
"THOSE CAUSING THE *REGALIAN PURGE* BELIEVED SOMEDAY A MAN-HUTT WOULD SWEEP EVIL FROM THE GALAXY."
"I CARED NOTHING FOR THEIR PHILOSOPHY. THEY DISRUPTED THE EMPIRE'S ORDER. I REESTABLISHED IT."

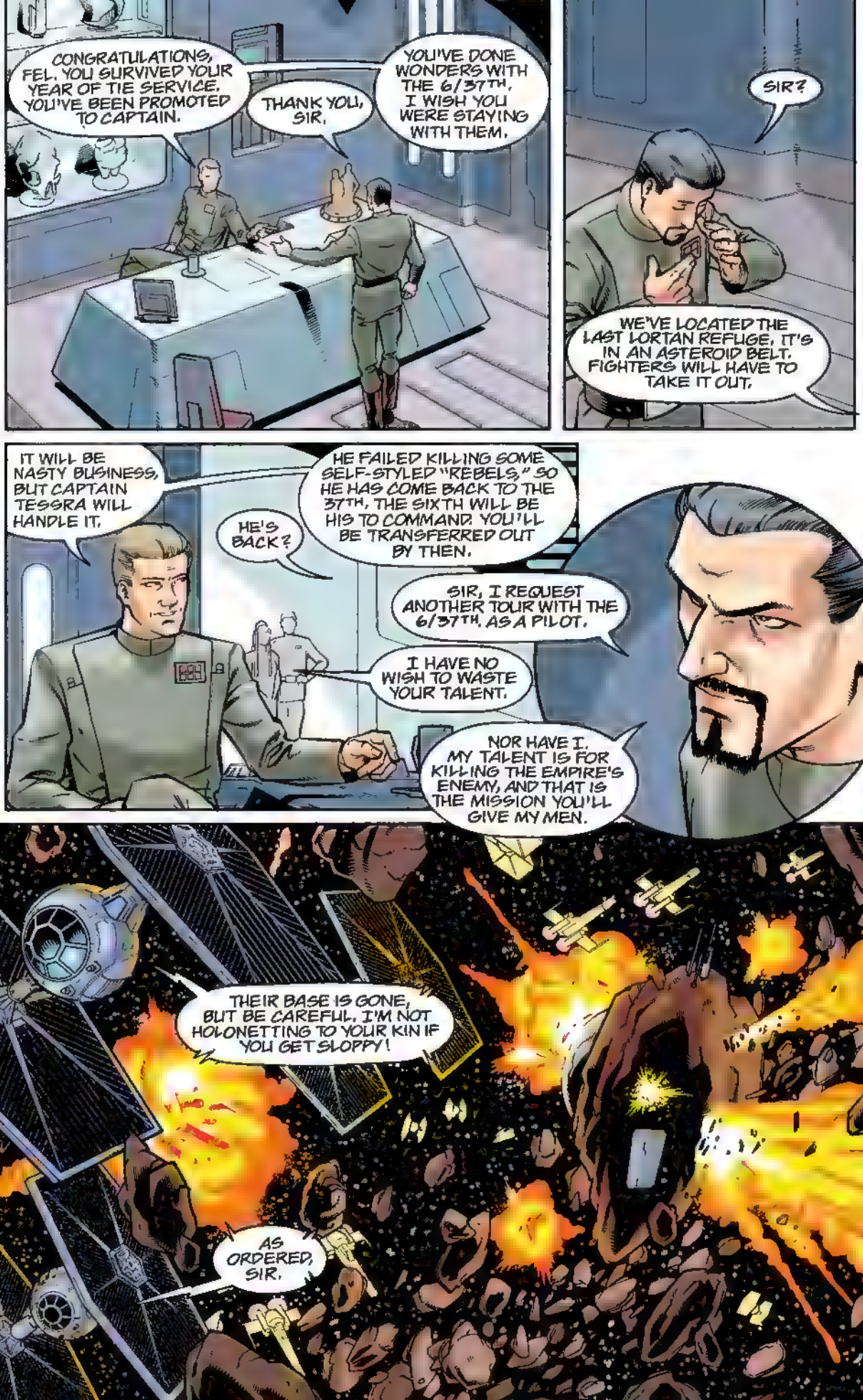

"LIKEWISE, I BROUGHT ORDER TO THE SQUADRON."
ITS REACTORS ARE HIT. IT'S GOING NOWHERE.
NICE SHOOTING, TWO.

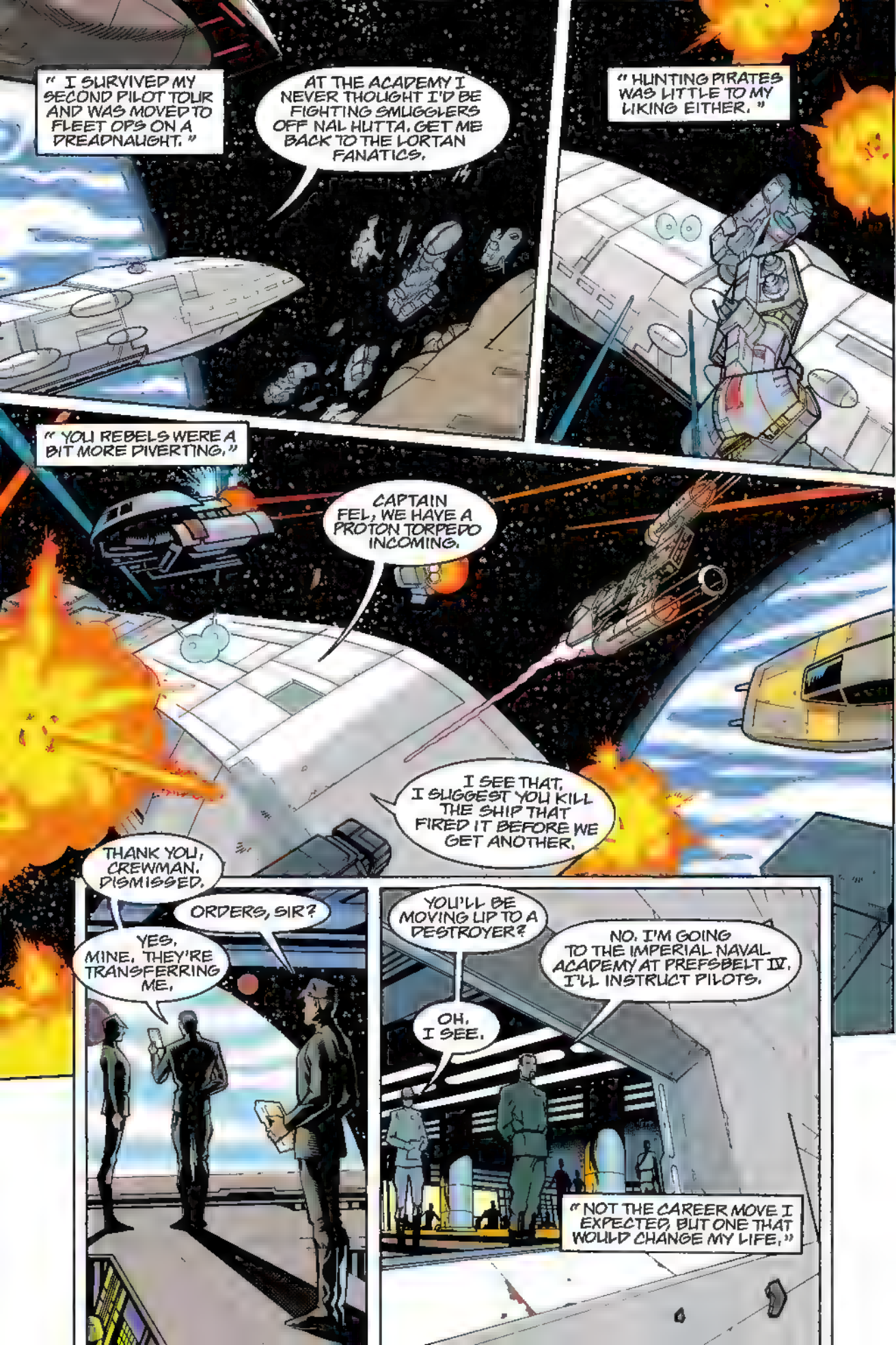
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, LT. FEL. RETURN TO THE SHIP.
TRANSMISSION WAS GARBLED. ENGAGING HOSTILES.
I HAVE YOUR BACK, LEAD.

NEGATIVE, TWO. GET THE POD.
AS ORDERED, SIR.


GOT IT. IT'S BURNING UP. SCRATCH ONE POD.
NOW, MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED. LET'S GO HOME.


"WE LOST SOME MEN THROUGH TRANSFERS..."
I'VE GOT A BIT YET. MAY THE EMPEROR SMILE UPON YOU.
THANKS FOR SEEING ME THROUGH TEMP-FLU. LOOK ME UP WHEN THEY MOVE YOU OUT.
"...OTHERS WERE ATTRITED."
"THROUGH INTENSIVE *STUDY*..."
"...INTENSIVE *DRILLING*..."
"...AND POST-BATTLE *ANALYSIS*..."
"...THE 6/37TH BECAME A FEARED FIGHTER SQUADRON."


CONGRATULATIONS, FEL. YOU SURVIVED YOUR YEAR OF TIE SERVICE. YOU'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO CAPTAIN.
THANK YOU, SIR.
YOU'VE DONE WONDERS WITH THE 6/37TH. I WISH YOU WERE STAYING WITH THEM.
SIR?
WE'VE LOCATED THE LAST LORTAN REFUGE. IT'S IN AN ASTEROID BELT. FIGHTERS WILL HAVE TO TAKE IT OUT.
IT WILL BE NASTY BUSINESS, BUT CAPTAIN TESSRA WILL HANDLE IT.
HE'S BACK?
HE FAILED KILLING SOME SELF-STYLED "REBELS," SO HE HAS COME BACK TO THE 37TH. THE SIXTH WILL BE HIS TO COMMAND. YOU'LL BE TRANSFERRED OUT BY THEN.
SIR, I REQUEST ANOTHER TOUR WITH THE 6/37TH, AS A PILOT.
I HAVE NO WISH TO WASTE YOUR TALENT.
NOR HAVE I. MY TALENT IS FOR KILLING THE EMPIRE'S ENEMY, AND THAT IS THE MISSION YOU'LL GIVE MY MEN.
THEIR BASE IS GONE, BUT BE CAREFUL. I'M NOT HOLONETTING TO YOUR KIN IF YOU GET SLOPPY!
AS ORDERED, SIR.


" I SURVIVED MY SECOND PILOT TOUR AND WAS MOVED TO FLEET OPS ON A DREADNAUGHT. "
AT THE ACADEMY I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE FIGHTING SMUGGLERS OFF NAL HUTTA. GET ME BACK TO THE LORTAN FANATICS.
" HUNTING PIRATES WAS LITTLE TO MY LIKING EITHER. "
" YOU REBELS WERE A BIT MORE DIVERTING. "
CAPTAIN FEL, WE HAVE A PROTON TORPEDO INCOMING.
I SEE THAT. I SUGGEST YOU KILL THE SHIP THAT FIRED IT BEFORE WE GET ANOTHER.
THANK YOU, CREWMAN. DISMISSED.
ORDERS, SIR?
YES, MINE. THEY'RE TRANSFERRING ME.
YOU'LL BE MOVING UP TO A DESTROYER?
OH, I SEE.
NO. I'M GOING TO THE IMPERIAL NAVAL ACADEMY AT PREFSBELT IV. I'LL INSTRUCT PILOTS.
" NOT THE CAREER MOVE I EXPECTED, BUT ONE THAT WOULD CHANGE MY LIFE. "

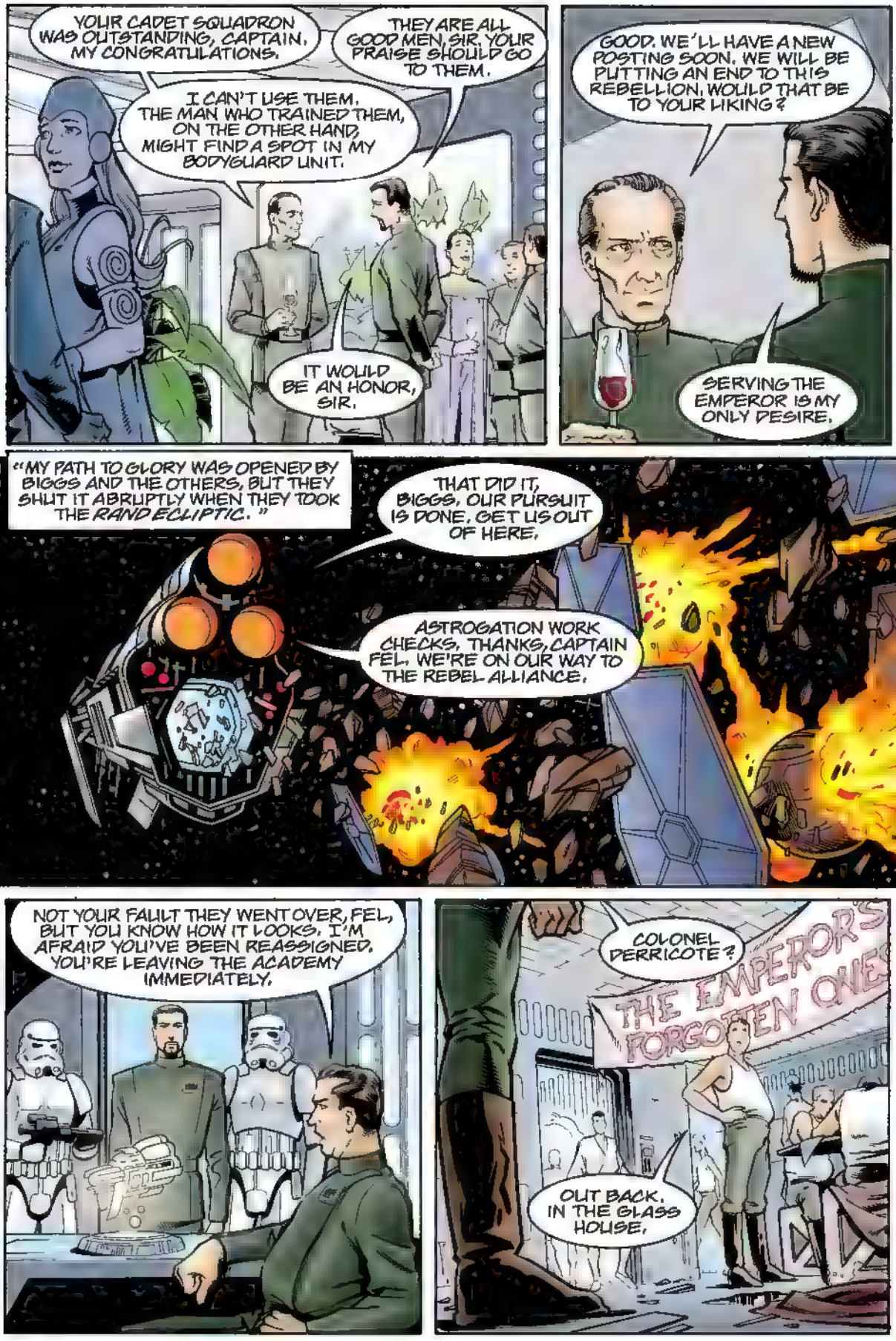
I AM CAPTAIN SOONTIR FEL. I WILL TEACH YOU HOW TO FLY AND HOW TO SURVIVE. IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ME, ALL I CAN TEACH YOU TO DO IS DIE.
"UNKNOWING, I TRAINED SOME OF YOUR BEST THERE."
THE REASON YOU LEARN ASTROGATION, CADET DARKLIGHTER, IS THAT COMPUTERS AND DROIDS DON'T ALWAYS WORK. PLOT THE COURSE AGAIN.
AS ORDERED, SIR.
YOU MUST SHOOT BETTER, CADET KLIVAN. IF YOU GO DOWN, THE EMPEROR EXPECTS YOU TO SURVIVE AND RETURN TO HIS SERVICE.
I UNDERSTAND, SIR. I'LL TRY TO DO BETTER.
JUST DO BETTER. DEAD MEN FAIL TRYING, NOT DOING.
I THOUGHT YOU HAD ME THERE, CADET CELCHU.
SO DID I, SIR, BUT I COULDN'T FINISH YOU.
PERHAPS NEXT TIME, CADET.
OF COURSE YOU COULDN'T, CELCHU. PEACE RUNS IN YOUR ALDERAANIAN VEINS. CAN'T BE A WARRIOR FROM A DISARMED PLANET.
CRACK!
SOME OF US STILL BEAR ARMS PROUDLY.
GROANS
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I...
CADET LAINE SLIPPED, DARKLIGHTER. RENS, HELP THE SECURITY OFFICER GET CADET LAINE TO THE INFIRMARY.

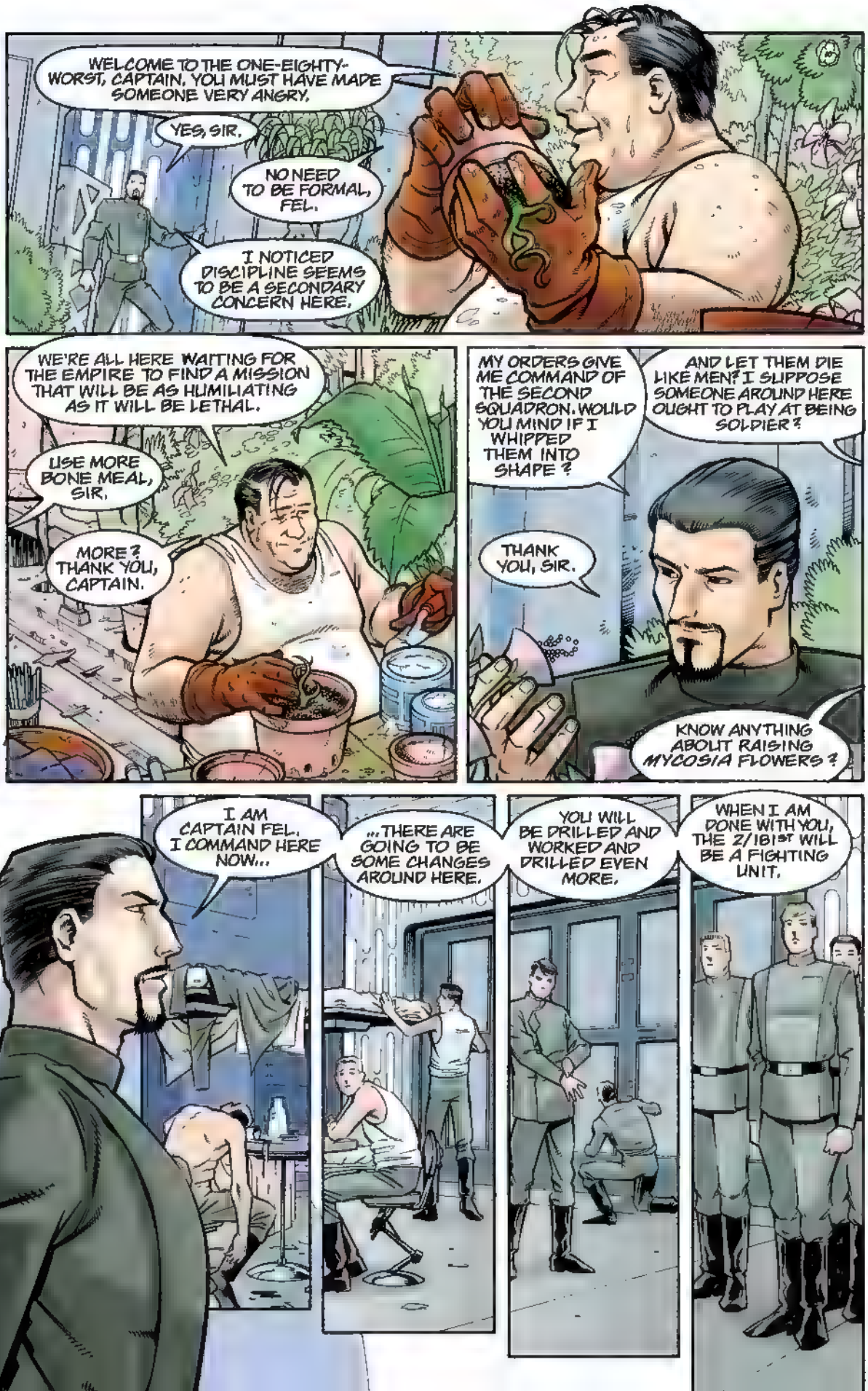
SIR, I WOULD NOT HAVE YOU LIE FOR ME.
WHAT HE? LAINE SUFFERED FROM A SLIP... OF HIS TONGUE. IT'S DONE.
YES, SIR.
JUST REMEMBER THIS, CELCHU: YOU NO LONGER BELONG TO ALDERAAN. YOU'RE THE EMPEROR'S MAN NOW.
WHY DOES HE WEIGH SO MUCH?
EGO. IT'S A TOUGH BURDEN TO BEAR IF IT'S NOT YOURS.

"MY STUDENTS WORKED HARD. MADE ME PROUD."
YOU'RE SPACEDUST, TYCHO.
KILL ME A DOZEN MORE TIMES, BIGGS, AND WE'LL WHAT, BE CLOSE TO EVEN?

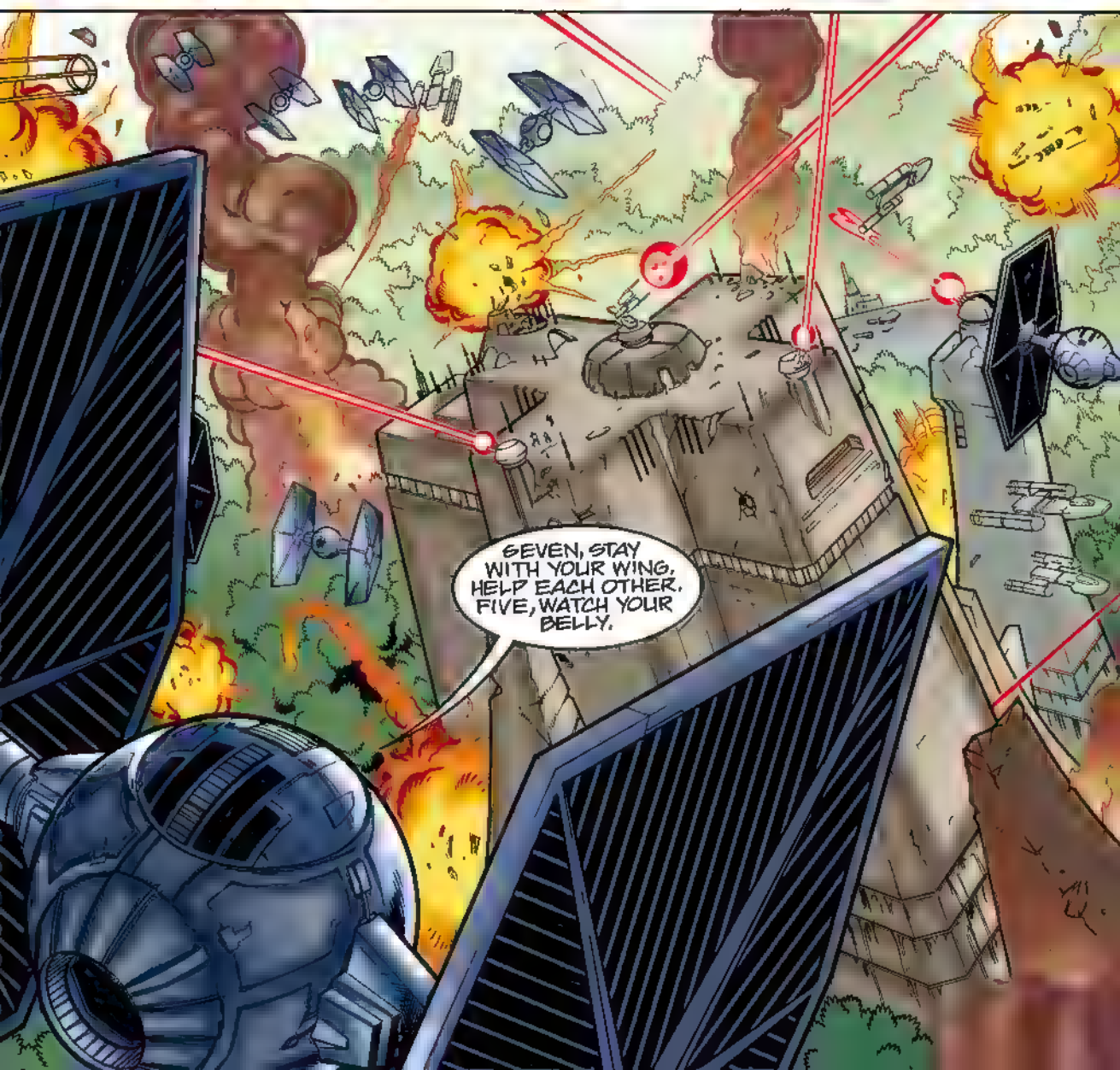
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THESE FOOLS FORMED A REBEL CELL. HOW STUPID.
THIS REBELLION, A LOT OF FOLKS SEE IT AS THE RIGHT THING.

IT'S NOT. THESE REBELS ARE BANDITS. THEY SHATTER THE EMPIRE'S ORDER. PEOPLE GET HURT. THEY DIE.
SOME WOULD SAY PEOPLE GET HURT AND DIE UNDER THE EMPIRE.
THE EMPIRE PROTECTS THOSE WHO CANNOT PROTECT THEMSELVES. DESTROY ORDER AND ANARCHY WILL REIGN. THEN EVERYONE WILL BE HURT.
YES, SIR.
DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE THEY DID, BOYS. YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO DIE.

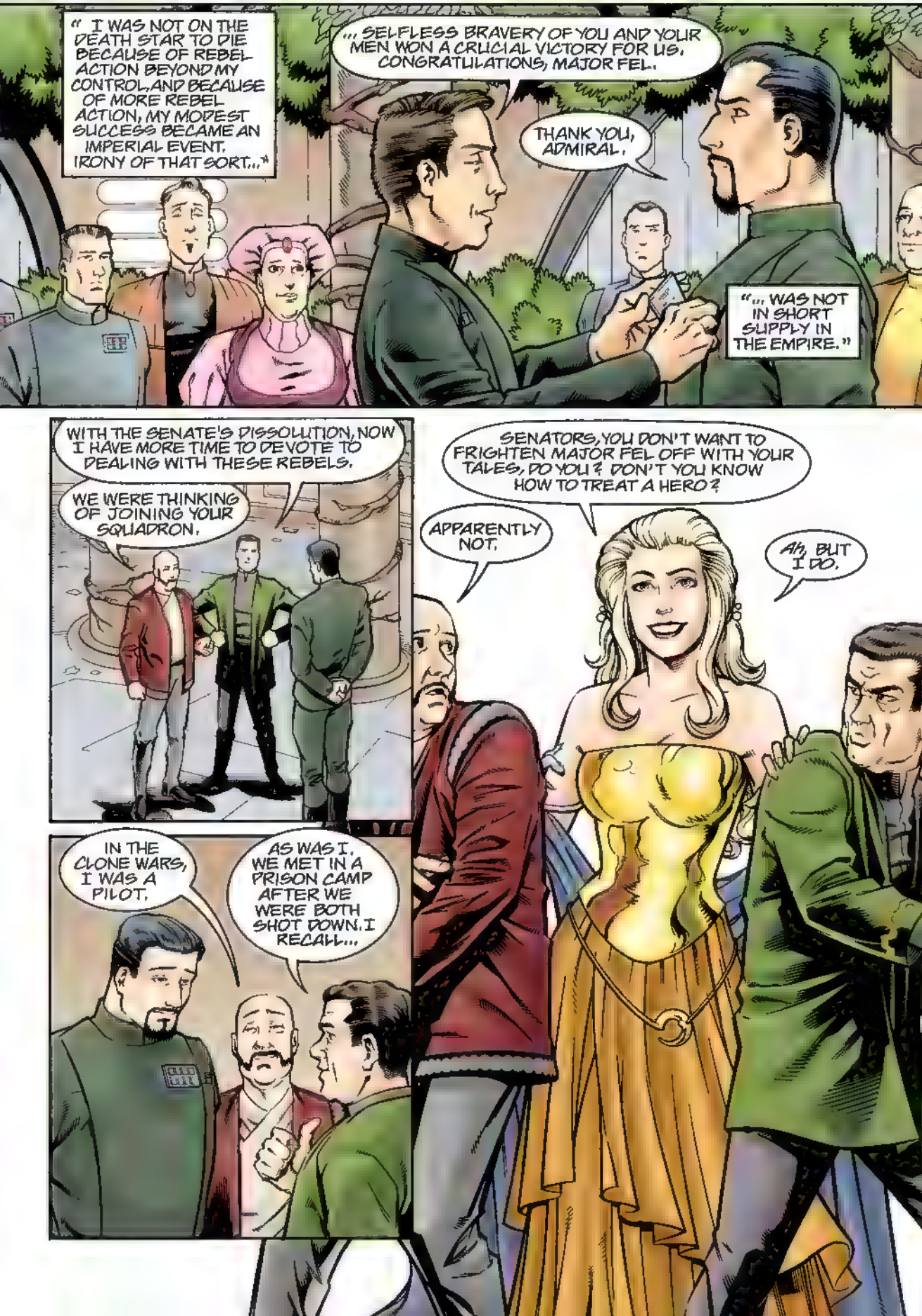

YOUR CADET SQUADRON WAS OUTSTANDING, CAPTAIN. MY CONGRATULATIONS.
THEY ARE ALL GOOD MEN, SIR. YOUR PRAISE SHOULD GO TO THEM.
I CAN'T USE THEM. THE MAN WHO TRAINED THEM, ON THE OTHER HAND, MIGHT FIND A SPOT IN MY BODYGUARD UNIT.
IT WOULD BE AN HONOR, SIR.
GOOD. WE'LL HAVE A NEW POSTING SOON. WE WILL BE PUTTING AN END TO THIS REBELLION. WOULD THAT BE TO YOUR LIKING?
SERVING THE EMPEROR IS MY ONLY DESIRE.
"MY PATH TO GLORY WAS OPENED BY BIGGS AND THE OTHERS, BUT THEY SHUT IT ABRUPTLY WHEN THEY TOOK THE *RAND ECLIPTIC*."
THAT DID IT, BIGGS. OUR PURSUIT IS DONE. GET US OUT OF HERE.
ASTROGATION WORK CHECKS, THANKS, CAPTAIN FEL. WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO THE REBEL ALLIANCE.
NOT YOUR FAULT THEY WENT OVER, FEL, BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT LOOKS. I'M AFRAID YOU'VE BEEN REASSIGNED. YOU'RE LEAVING THE ACADEMY IMMEDIATELY.
COLONEL DERRICOTE?
THE EMPEROR'S FORGOTTEN ONES
OUT BACK, IN THE GLASS HOUSE.

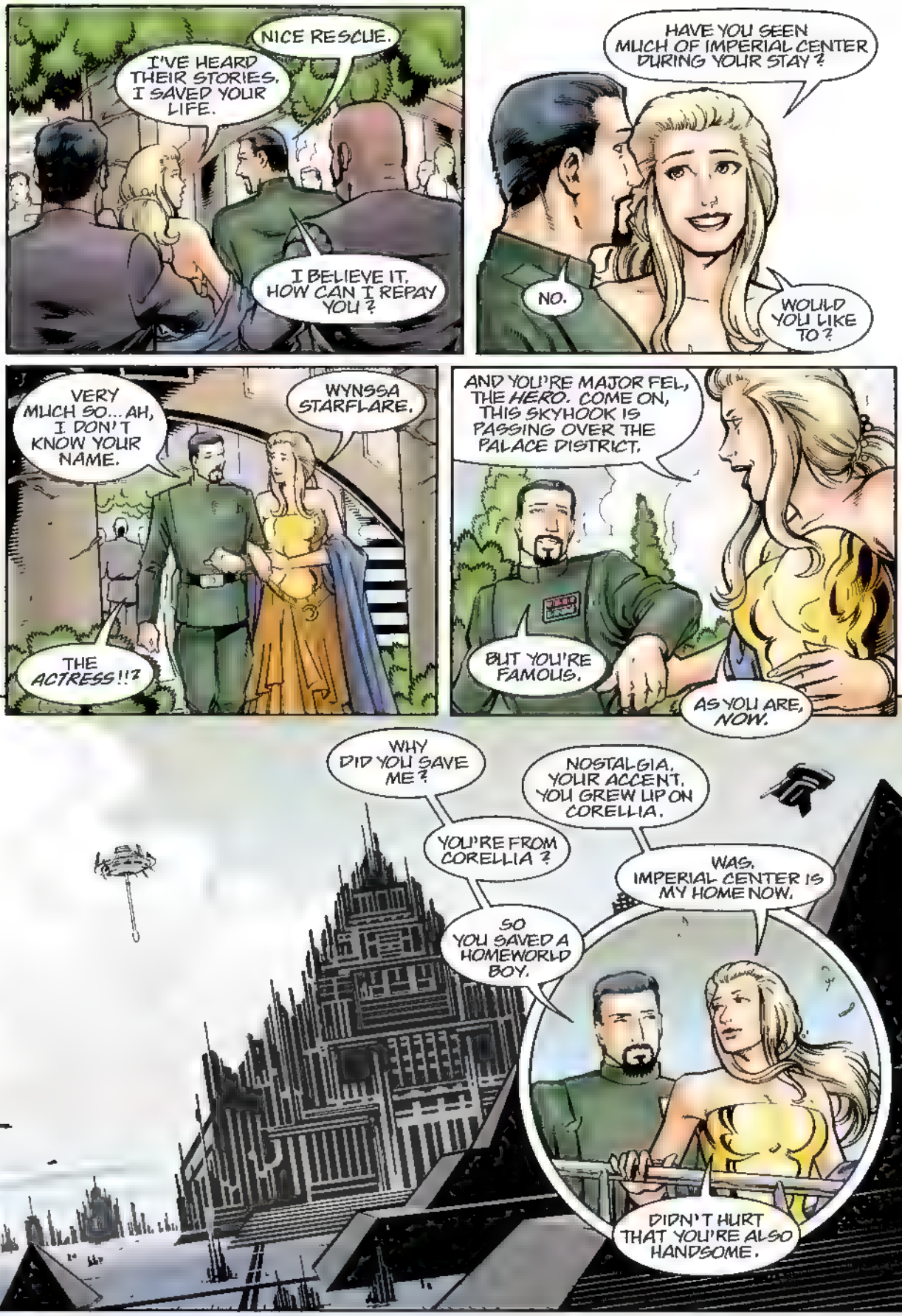

WELCOME TO THE ONE-EIGHTY-WORST, CAPTAIN. YOU MUST HAVE MADE SOMEONE VERY ANGRY.
YES, SIR.
NO NEED TO BE FORMAL, FEL.
I NOTICED DISCIPLINE SEEMS TO BE A SECONDARY CONCERN HERE.
WE'RE ALL HERE WAITING FOR THE EMPIRE TO FIND A MISSION THAT WILL BE AS HUMILIATING AS IT WILL BE LETHAL.
USE MORE BONE MEAL, SIR.
MORE? THANK YOU, CAPTAIN.
MY ORDERS GIVE ME COMMAND OF THE SECOND SQUADRON. WOULD YOU MIND IF I WHIPPED THEM INTO SHAPE?
AND LET THEM DIE LIKE MEN? I SUPPOSE SOMEONE AROUND HERE OUGHT TO PLAY AT BEING SOLDIER?
THANK YOU, SIR.
KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RAISING MYCOSIA FLOWERS?
I AM CAPTAIN FEL. I COMMAND HERE NOW...
...THERE ARE GOING TO BE SOME CHANGES AROUND HERE.
YOU WILL BE DRILLED AND WORKED AND DRILLED EVEN MORE.
WHEN I AM DONE WITH YOU, THE 2/181ST WILL BE A FIGHTING UNIT.

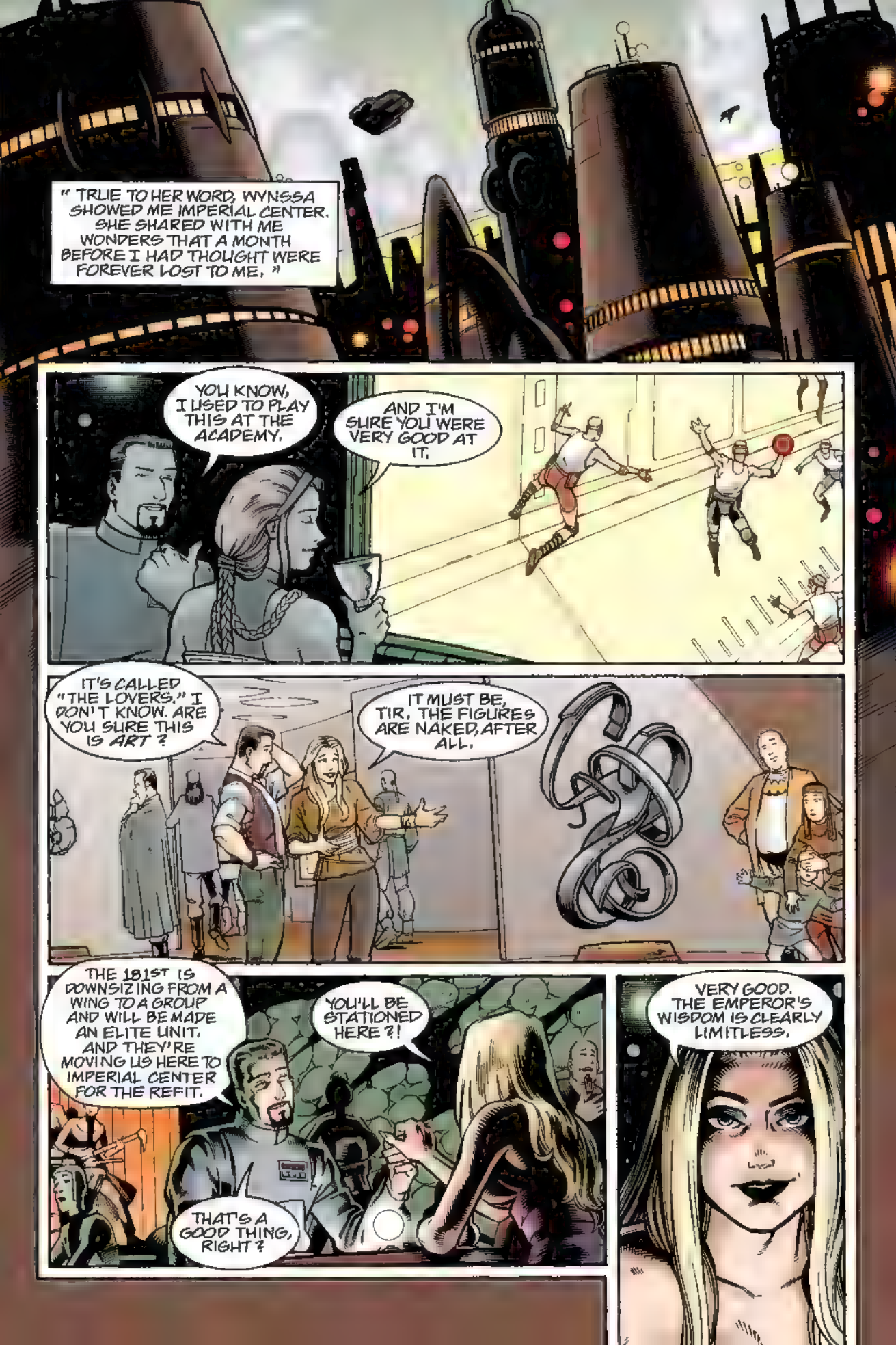
YOUR SQUADRON HAS A MISSION. IT APPEARS YOUR ENEMIES ARE MORE IMPATIENT THAN MINE.
HAVE YOU SENT IN REPORTS OF MY SQUADRON'S PERFORMANCE NUMBERS?
AND REMIND THEM WE'RE HERE?
THE 233RD GOT MAULED BY REBEL Y-WINGS AND LOST ORD BINIIR. YOU'RE PART OF AN OPERATION TO TAKE IT BACK.
A WING LOST IT AND A SQUADRON IS BEING SENT TO TAKE IT BACK?
NEXT TIME, PICK LESS AMBITIOUS ENEMIES.


SEVEN, STAY WITH YOUR WING. HELP EACH OTHER. FIVE, WATCH YOUR BELLY.

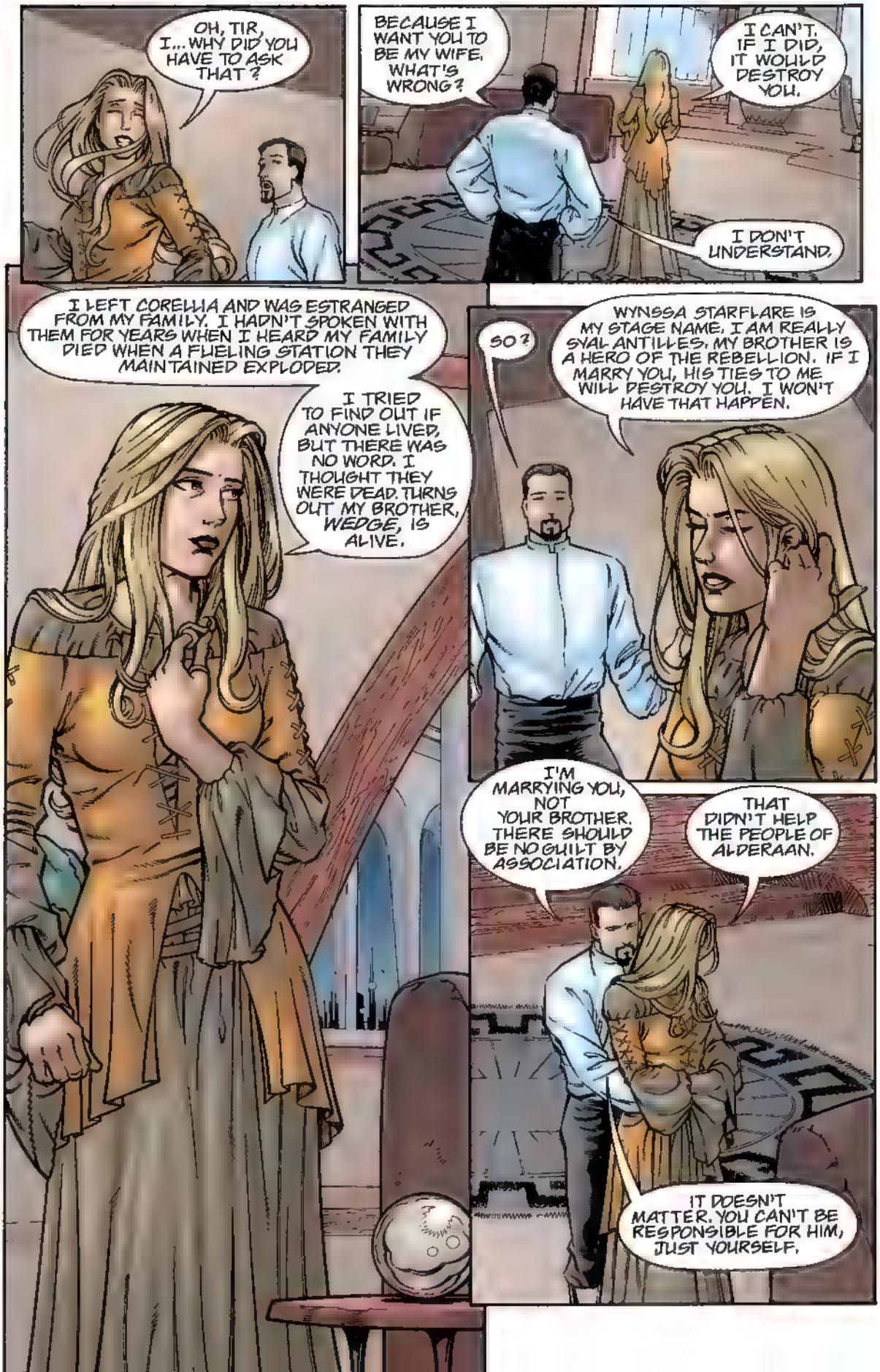
"Y-WING PILOTS BRAGGED OF THEIR GREAT VICTORY AT THE FIRST BATTLE OF ORD BINIIR.
"OF THE SECOND BATTLE OF ORD BINIIR, THEY SAY LITTLE.
"PERHAPS IT IS BECAUSE FEW OF THEM SURVIVED TO BRAG.
"THEN AGAIN, PERHAPS THEY KNOW THAT BATTLE WAS INSIGNIFICANT.
"THAT DAY, THE DEATH STAR DIED. IT WAS YOUR GREATEST VICTORY.
"FOR THE EMPIRE, MY VICTORY WAS OUR ONLY VICTORY THAT DAY."


"I WAS NOT ON THE DEATH STAR TO DIE BECAUSE OF REBEL ACTION BEYOND MY CONTROL, AND BECAUSE OF MORE REBEL ACTION, MY MODEST SUCCESS BECAME AN IMPERIAL EVENT. IRONY OF THAT SORT..."
"... SELFLESS BRAVERY OF YOU AND YOUR MEN WON A CRUCIAL VICTORY FOR US. CONGRATULATIONS, MAJOR FEL.
THANK YOU, ADMIRAL.
"... WAS NOT IN SHORT SUPPLY IN THE EMPIRE."
WITH THE SENATE'S DISSOLUTION, NOW I HAVE MORE TIME TO DEVOTE TO DEALING WITH THESE REBELS.
WE WERE THINKING OF JOINING YOUR SQUADRON.
SENATORS, YOU DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN MAJOR FEL OFF WITH YOUR TALES, DO YOU? DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO TREAT A HERO?
APPARENTLY NOT.
AH, BUT I DO.
IN THE CLONE WARS, I WAS A PILOT.
AS WAS I. WE MET IN A PRISON CAMP AFTER WE WERE BOTH SHOT DOWN. I RECALL...

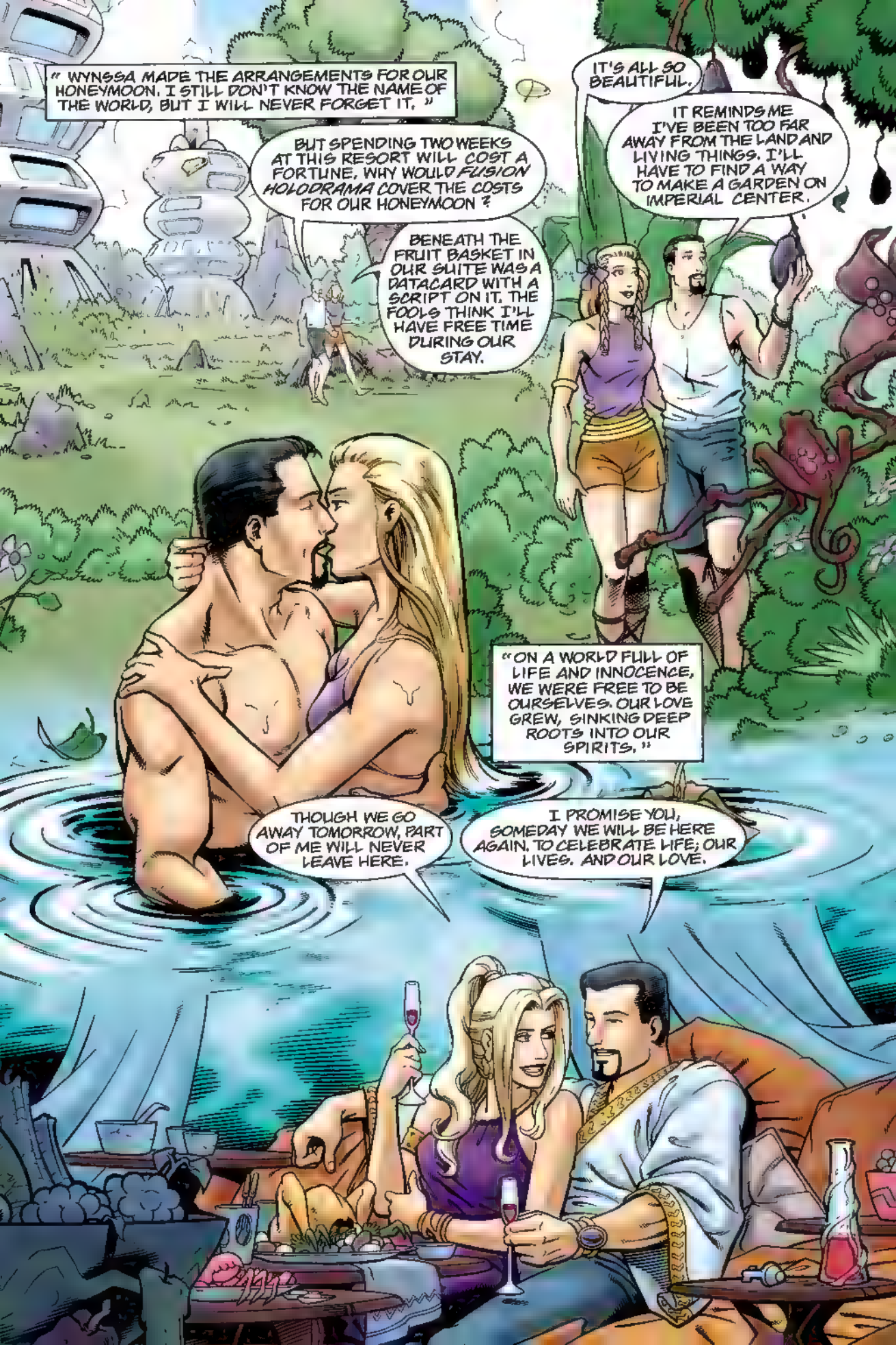

NICE RESCUE.
I'VE HEARD THEIR STORIES. I SAVED YOUR LIFE.
I BELIEVE IT. HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?
HAVE YOU SEEN MUCH OF IMPERIAL CENTER DURING YOUR STAY?
NO.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO?
VERY MUCH SO... AH, I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME.
WYNSSA STARFLARE.
THE ACTRESS!!?
AND YOU'RE MAJOR FEL, THE HERO. COME ON, THIS SKYHOOK IS PASSING OVER THE PALACE DISTRICT.
BUT YOU'RE FAMOUS.
AS YOU ARE, NOW.
WHY DID YOU SAVE ME?
NOSTALGIA, YOUR ACCENT. YOU GREW UP ON CORELLIA.
YOU'RE FROM CORELLIA?
WAS. IMPERIAL CENTER IS MY HOME NOW.
SO YOU SAVED A HOMEWORLD BOY.
DIDN'T HURT THAT YOU'RE ALSO HANDSOME.

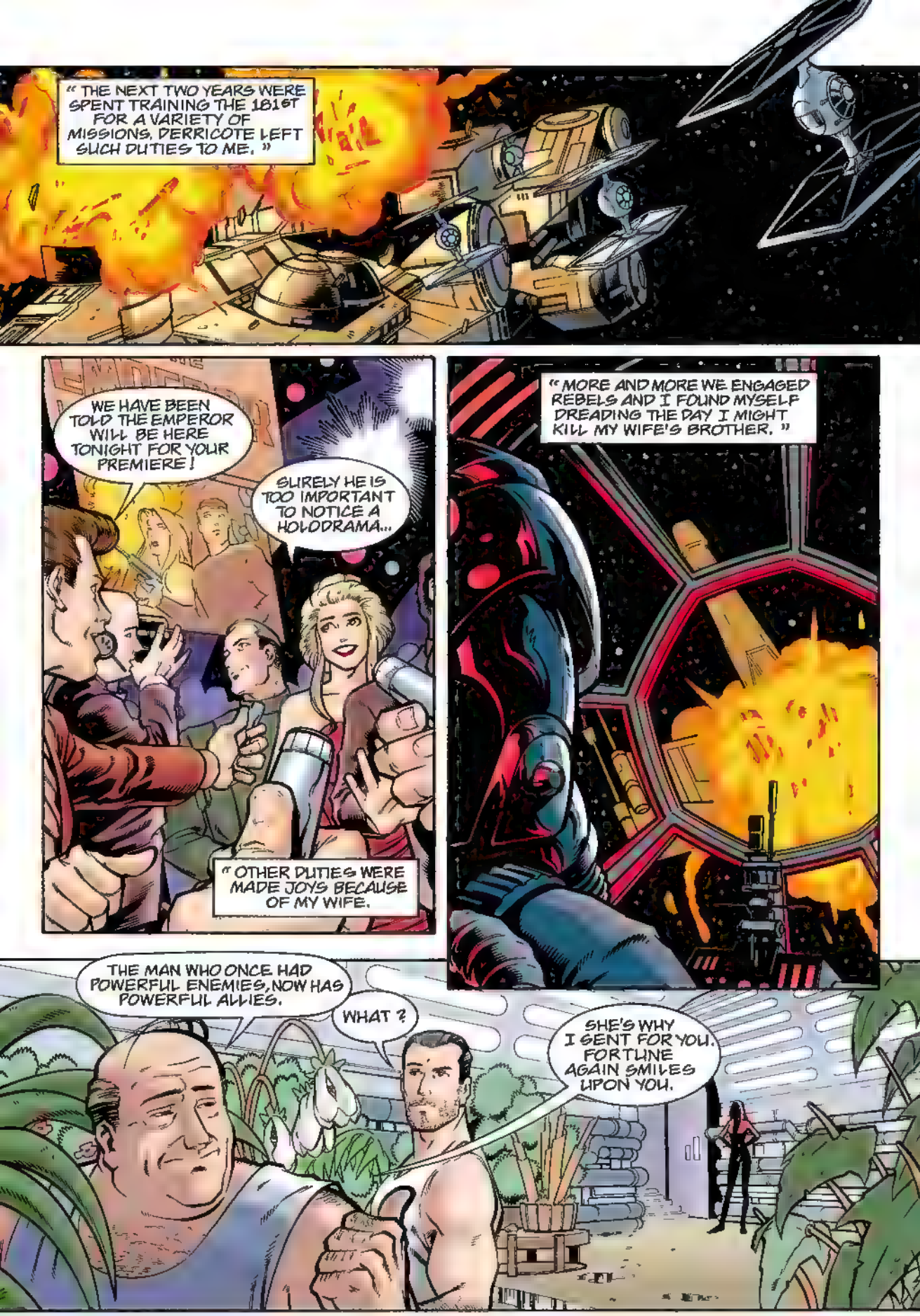

" TRUE TO HER WORD, WYNSSA SHOWED ME IMPERIAL CENTER. SHE SHARED WITH ME WONDERS THAT A MONTH BEFORE I HAD THOUGHT WERE FOREVER LOST TO ME. "
YOU KNOW, I USED TO PLAY THIS AT THE ACADEMY.
AND I'M SURE YOU WERE VERY GOOD AT IT.
IT'S CALLED "THE LOVERS." I DON'T KNOW. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ART?
IT MUST BE, TIR. THE FIGURES ARE NAKED, AFTER ALL.
THE 181ST IS DOWNSIZING FROM A WING TO A GROUP AND WILL BE MADE AN ELITE UNIT. AND THEY'RE MOVING US HERE TO IMPERIAL CENTER FOR THE REFIT.
YOU'LL BE STATIONED HERE?!
THAT'S A GOOD THING, RIGHT?
VERY GOOD. THE EMPEROR'S WISDOM IS CLEARLY LIMITLESS.

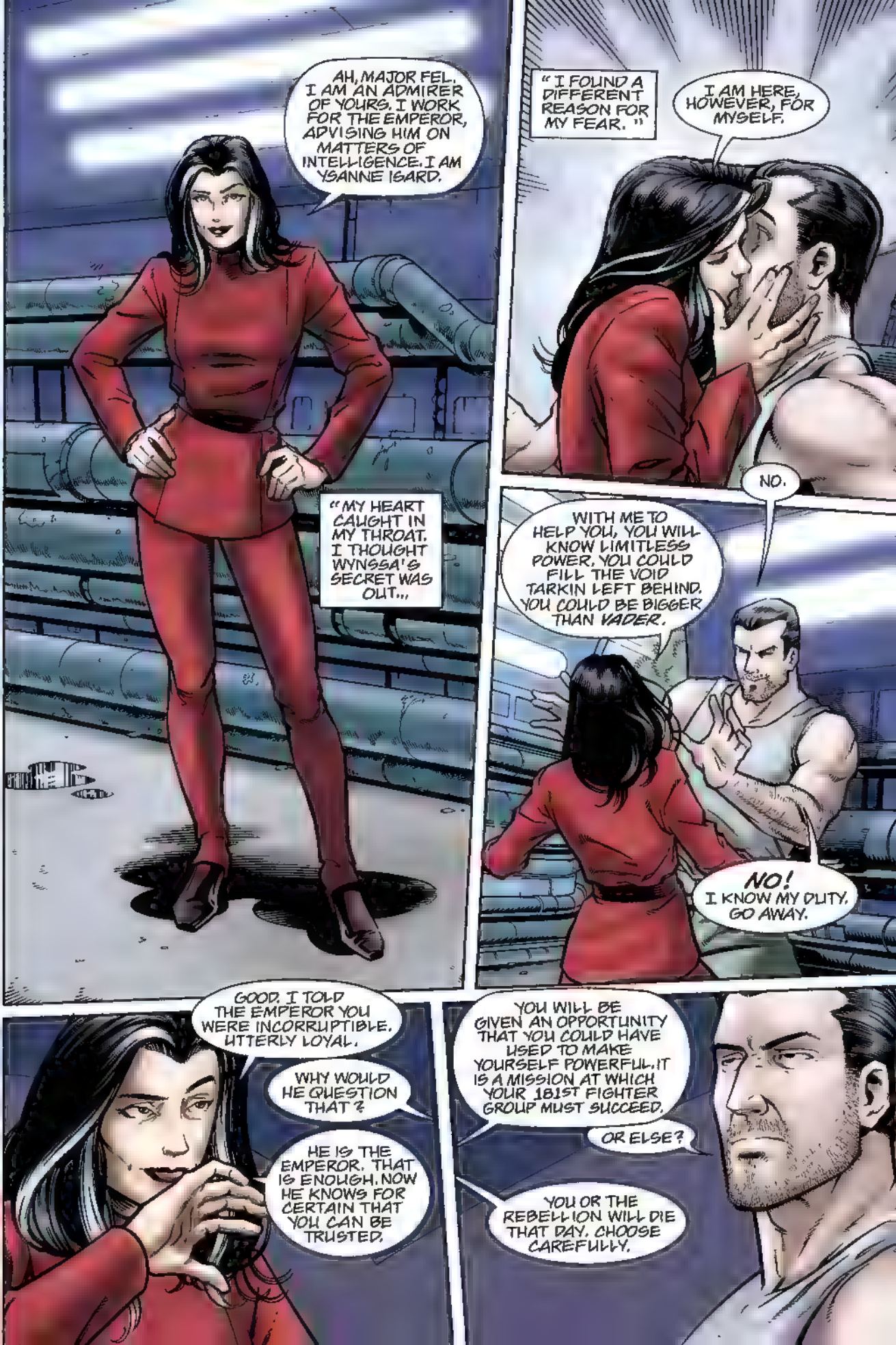
"BUILDING THE 181ST IMPERIAL FIGHTER GROUP OCCUPIED MUCH OF MY TIME."
YOU MAY THINK, RIGHT NOW, THAT YOU WANT TO BE ONE OF THE 181ST'S THIRTY-SIX PILOTS. OUR TESTING WILL MAKE YOU RECONSIDER.
THE OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE, LIEUTENANT, WAS FOR YOU TO KILL ME IN THE HEADHUNTER, NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME, SIR.
THIS IS THE 181ST. THERE IS NO "NEXT TIME."
"MANY WANTED IN FOR MANY REASONS."
I DON'T CARE THAT YOUR MOTHER WAS AN IMPERIAL SENATOR, CAPTAIN. NO ONE MAKES IT INTO THE 181ST TO AVOID THE SHAME OF BEING REJECTED. THE REBELS WILL STILL SHOOT YOU, EVEN IF THEY KNOW YOU'D BE MORTIFIED TO DIE AT THEIR HANDS!
"I WANTED THOSE WHO WANTED IN FOR THE GLORY OF THE EMPIRE."
GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, CAPTAIN PHENNIR.
"MY OFFICIAL DUTIES DID NOT OCCUPY ALL OF MY TIME."
THIS IS WONDERFUL, SOONTIR. WHAT MADE YOU THINK OF HIRING THE IMPERIAL SUITE?
I WANTED A SPECIAL PLACE FOR A SPECIAL EVENING.
IT WAS NEARLY A YEAR AGO YOU SAVED MY LIFE. NOW I'D LIKE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE WITH YOU. WILL YOU MARRY ME?


OH, TIR, I... WHY DID YOU HAVE TO ASK THAT?
BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO BE MY WIFE. WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN'T. IF I DID, IT WOULD DESTROY YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I LEFT CORELLIA AND WAS ESTRANGED FROM MY FAMILY. I HADN'T SPOKEN WITH THEM FOR YEARS WHEN I HEARD MY FAMILY DIED WHEN A FUELING STATION THEY MAINTAINED EXPLODED.
I TRIED TO FIND OUT IF ANYONE LIVED, BUT THERE WAS NO WORD. I THOUGHT THEY WERE DEAD. TURNS OUT MY BROTHER, WEDGE, IS ALIVE.
SO?
WYNSSA STARFLARE IS MY STAGE NAME. I AM REALLY SYAL ANTILLES. MY BROTHER IS A HERO OF THE REBELLION. IF I MARRY YOU, HIS TIES TO ME WILL DESTROY YOU. I WON'T HAVE THAT HAPPEN.
I'M MARRYING YOU, NOT YOUR BROTHER. THERE SHOULD BE NO GUILT BY ASSOCIATION.
THAT DIDN'T HELP THE PEOPLE OF ALDERAAN.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. YOU CAN'T BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIM, JUST YOURSELF.

I LOVE MY BROTHER AND I LOVE YOU. WHAT IF YOU ARE FORCED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER?
I DO NOT WANT TO HURT YOU, BUT HIS DEATH WOULD HURT WHETHER OR NOT WE MARRY.
I HAVE MY DUTY TO YOU AND MY DUTY TO THE EMPIRE. WHERE THEY CONFLICT, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WILL DO. I'M BEING HONEST WITH YOU.
I KNOW, AND I KNOW I'M RESISTING PRESENT HAPPINESS FOR FEAR OF A FUTURE THAT MAY NEVER COME ABOUT.
DON'T RESIST--
--WE CAN'T KNOW THE FUTURE; JUST THAT WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.
THE FUTURE I WANT TO KNOW IS THE FUTURE WITH YOU, I WILL MARRY YOU, SOONTIR FEL.
AND I WILL LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND IN ALL WAYS, SYAL ANTILLES.
"EVEN ON THE RUN, YOU MIGHT HAVE HEARD WORD OF OUR WEDDING. THEY SAID A BILLION MEN HAD THEIR HEARTS BROKEN WHEN WYNSSA STARFLARE WED. I KNOW OF ONE MAN WHO FELT MADE WHOLE IN THAT SAME CEREMONY.
"MEMBERS OF MY FAMILY CAME TO CORUSCANT FOR THE WEDDING. WYNSSA'S BROTHER DID NOT."


" WYNSSA MADE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OUR HONEYMOON. I STILL DON'T KNOW THE NAME OF THE WORLD, BUT I WILL NEVER FORGET IT. "
BUT SPENDING TWO WEEKS AT THIS RESORT WILL COST A FORTUNE. WHY WOULD FUSION HOLODRAMA COVER THE COSTS FOR OUR HONEYMOON ?
BENEATH THE FRUIT BASKET IN OUR SUITE WAS A DATACARD WITH A SCRIPT ON IT. THE FOOLS THINK I'LL HAVE FREE TIME DURING OUR STAY.
IT'S ALL SO BEAUTIFUL.
IT REMINDS ME I'VE BEEN TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE LAND AND LIVING THINGS. I'LL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE A GARDEN ON IMPERIAL CENTER.
"ON A WORLD FULL OF LIFE AND INNOCENCE, WE WERE FREE TO BE OURSELVES. OUR LOVE GREW, SINKING DEEP ROOTS INTO OUR SPIRITS."
THOUGH WE GO AWAY TOMORROW, PART OF ME WILL NEVER LEAVE HERE.
I PROMISE YOU, SOMEDAY WE WILL BE HERE AGAIN. TO CELEBRATE LIFE; OUR LIVES. AND OUR LOVE.

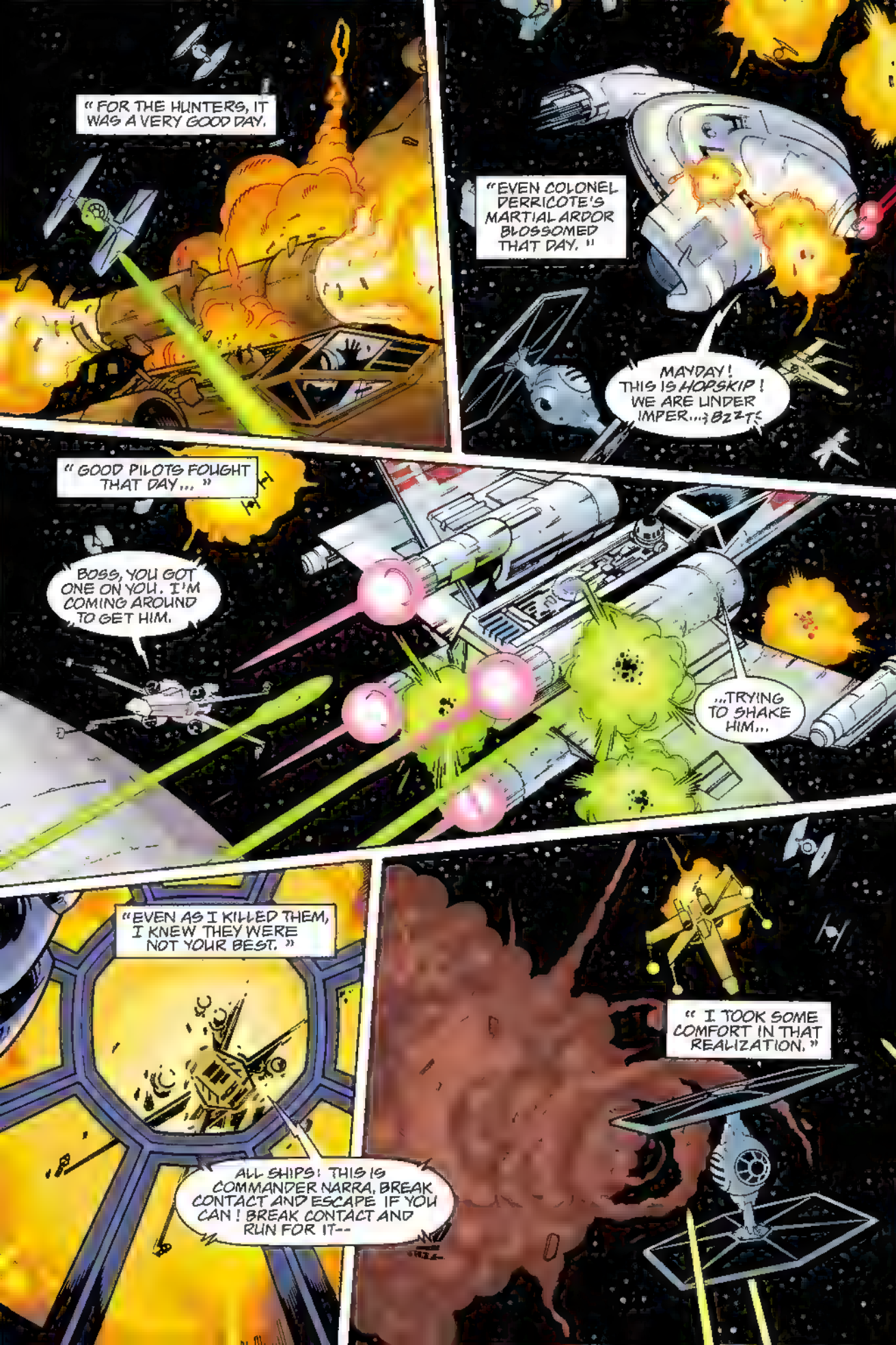

" THE NEXT TWO YEARS WERE SPENT TRAINING THE 181ST FOR A VARIETY OF MISSIONS. DERRICOTE LEFT SUCH DUTIES TO ME. "
WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THE EMPEROR WILL BE HERE TONIGHT FOR YOUR PREMIERE!
SURELY HE IS TOO IMPORTANT TO NOTICE A HOLODRAMA...
" OTHER DUTIES WERE MADE JOYS BECAUSE OF MY WIFE.
" MORE AND MORE WE ENGAGED REBELS AND I FOUND MYSELF DREADING THE DAY I MIGHT KILL MY WIFE'S BROTHER. "
THE MAN WHO ONCE HAD POWERFUL ENEMIES, NOW HAS POWERFUL ALLIES.
WHAT ?
SHE'S WHY I SENT FOR YOU. FORTUNE AGAIN SMILES UPON YOU.


AH, MAJOR FEL. I AM AN ADMIRER OF YOURS. I WORK FOR THE EMPEROR, ADVISING HIM ON MATTERS OF INTELLIGENCE. I AM YSANNE ISARD.
"MY HEART CAUGHT IN MY THROAT. I THOUGHT WYNSSA'S SECRET WAS OUT...
"I FOUND A DIFFERENT REASON FOR MY FEAR."
I AM HERE, HOWEVER, FOR MYSELF.
NO.
WITH ME TO HELP YOU, YOU WILL KNOW LIMITLESS POWER. YOU COULD FILL THE VOID TARKIN LEFT BEHIND. YOU COULD BE BIGGER THAN VADER.
NO! I KNOW MY DUTY. GO AWAY.
GOOD. I TOLD THE EMPEROR YOU WERE INCORRUPTIBLE. UTTERLY LOYAL.
WHY WOULD HE QUESTION THAT?
HE IS THE EMPEROR. THAT IS ENOUGH. NOW HE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN THAT YOU CAN BE TRUSTED.
YOU WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU COULD HAVE USED TO MAKE YOURSELF POWERFUL. IT IS A MISSION AT WHICH YOUR 181ST FIGHTER GROUP MUST SUCCEED.
OR ELSE?
YOU OR THE REBELLION WILL DIE THAT DAY. CHOOSE CAREFULLY.

WHAT DID THE COLONEL WANT?
NOTHING.
YOU'RE UPSET. WHAT'S WRONG?
THE EMPEROR SAW FIT TO TEST MY LOYALTY TONIGHT. I DID THE RIGHT THING, BUT I THINK I MADE AN ENEMY. AT THE VERY LEAST AN ENEMY IS AWARE I EXIST, WHICH MEANS WE COULD BE IN JEOPARDY.
OH. IT'S ABOUT WEDGE, ISN'T IT?
NOT ABOUT YOUR BROTHER, THOUGH THAT IS A SECRET SHE WILL NO DOUBT LEARN. WE MUST TAKE PRECAUTIONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
PREPARE TO RUN. DON'T TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO. IF THINGS GO BAD, I WILL TELL YOU TO RUN, THEN I WILL FIND YOU AND WE'LL VANISH TOGETHER.
ARE THINGS THAT BAD?
I HOPE NOT. I HOPE WE NEVER WILL HAVE TO RUN, BUT AFTER TONIGHT... TO NOT BE PREPARED WOULD BE TO COMMIT SUICIDE.
BUT HOW WILL YOU FIND ME?
NO POWER IN THE GALAXY WILL KEEP US APART, BELIEVE IT. KNOW IT.

WE HAVE UNCOVERED A PLOT BY THE REBEL ALLIANCE TO MOVE SUPPLIES IN TO AND OUT OF DERRA IV. YOU WILL HIT THE REBEL TASK FORCE AND DESTROY IT. THIS WILL BREAK THE ALLIANCE. WITHOUT THESE SUPPLIES, THEY CANNOT STAND AGAINST US.
"I HEARD LORD VADER'S WORDS, BUT I COULD NOT FULLY CONCENTRATE ON THEM.
"THE PLAN HE OUTLINED WOULD WORK, BUT I KNEW IT WAS NOT HIS. IT WAS ELEGANT, BUT LACKED THE DARK NUANCES I EXPECTED FROM HIM.
"GIVEN THE EMPIRE'S XENOPHOBIA, ONLY ONE THING COULD EXPLAIN THE PRESENCE-- NAY, EVEN THE *EXISTENCE*--OF THE ALIEN ADMIRAL,"
IT'S HIS PLAN. HE SET THIS UP. AN ALIEN WILL SAVE THE EMPIRE.
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT SCARED ME MORE--THAT REALIZATION, OR THE ALIEN'S KNOWING NOD."

"I PUT THE ALIEN FROM MY MIND. MY JOB WAS TO KILL REBELS, AND NOTHING WOULD DETER ME."
TWO SQUADRON, CRIPPLE THE CONVOY LEADERS. ONE, WE HAVE THE FIGHTERS. THREE, TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY.


"FOR THE HUNTERS, IT WAS A VERY GOOD DAY.
"EVEN COLONEL DERRICOTE'S MARTIAL ARDOR BLOSSOMED THAT DAY."
MAYDAY! THIS IS HOPSKIP! WE ARE UNDER IMPER...;BZZT;
"GOOD PILOTS FOUGHT THAT DAY..."
BOSS, YOU GOT ONE ON YOU. I'M COMING AROUND TO GET HIM.
...TRYING TO SHAKE HIM...
"EVEN AS I KILLED THEM, I KNEW THEY WERE NOT YOUR BEST."
"I TOOK SOME COMFORT IN THAT REALIZATION."
ALL SHIPS: THIS IS COMMANDER NARRA. BREAK CONTACT AND ESCAPE IF YOU CAN! BREAK CONTACT AND RUN FOR IT--

"THERE WAS LITTLE ELSE THAT WAS COMFORTING ABOUT THE SLAUGHTER AT DERRA IV."
FEL HERE, COLONEL DERRICOTE, WE ARE NEGATIVE FOR HOSTILE ENEMY ACTIVITY. MISSION PARAMETERS ARE FULFILLED.
I COPY, MAJOR, COMMAND, THIS IS COLONEL DERRICOTE. OUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED. THEY ARE ALL DEAD.
EXCELLENT. THE VIPER'S BODY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. NOW WE MUST LOCATE THE HEAD AND CRUSH IT.

"AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, WE CELEBRATED OUR VICTORY.
"AND WE WERE DEBRIEFED ON IT.
"AND WE ANALYZED IT."
KILLING THE LEAD CONVOY SHIPS DID DISRUPT THE REBELS SIGNIFICANTLY.
"THE PROCESS WAS MEANT TO CONVINCE US WE HAD DONE WELL, BUT I KNEW BETTER. THE ALIEN'S PLAN HAD WON US THE BATTLE—WE WERE JUST GAME PIECES FOR HIM THAT HAD PERFORMED WELL.
"THE EMPIRE JUSTIFIED ITS ACTIONS THROUGH *HUMAN SUPERIORITY*—IT WAS OUR DUTY TO PRESERVE ORDER TO PREVENT THE EXPLOITATION OF LESSER SPECIES. ANY ACTION IN THE PURSUIT OF THAT GOAL WAS JUSTIFIED.
"RELYING ON THE ALIEN TO SAVE THE EMPIRE, THE EMPEROR UNDERCUT THE FOUNDATION FOR BELIEF IN THE EMPIRE. THIS CONTINUED WHAT HE HAD BEGUN WHEN HE SENT ISARD TO TEST MY LOYALTY."

"THE EMPEROR HIMSELF FINISHED THAT JOB, THOUGH IT WAS A TIME BEFORE I LET MYSELF SEE IT."
THESE ARE OUR HEROES, LONG MAY THEY SERVE.
LONG MAY THEY SERVE!
"THEY MADE DERRICOTE A GENERAL AND GAVE HIM A WORLD TO DEFEND."
"FOR KILLING FOUR TRANSPORTS, THEY MADE PHENNIR A COMMANDER AND GAVE HIM MY OLD SQUADRON."
"THEY GAVE ME THE 181ST, MAKING ME A COLONEL. I ALSO BECAME A BARON AND WAS GIVEN A HOLDING ON CORELLIA, TO WHICH I MOVED MY FAMILY."
"BUT THE ALIEN, HE GOT NOTHING. RUMORS LATER PLACED HIM IN THE UNKNOWN REGIONS, AN EMBARRASSMENT, CLEARLY, THAT THE EMPEROR WANTED HIDDEN FAR AWAY FROM IMPERIAL CENTER."

"EVENTS KEPT ME FROM THINKING LONG AND HARD ABOUT THE HYPOCRISY OF IT ALL...
"THINGS LIKE HOTH...
"... INTERNAL DISCONTENTS...
"...THE ENDOR DEBACLE...
"... AND THE HUMILIATION AT BRENTAAL!"

THE TIME I HAVE SPENT AS YOUR GUEST HAS ALLOWED ME TO DO THINKING I HAD AVOIDED.
THE EMPIRE I SERVED DIED WITH THE EMPEROR. PROBABLY BEFORE THAT.
I NOW STAND READY TO OFFER YOU MY LIFE, MY SKILLS AND MY KNOWLEDGE. I ASK YOU ONLY ONE THING IN RETURN.
MY WIFE WILL HAVE FLED BY NOW. HELP ME FIND HER, SAVE HER, AND THE FINEST WEAPON THE EMPIRE EVER CREATED WILL BE YOURS TO COMMAND.

Family Ties | Illustration by John Nadeau

APPROXIMATELY TEN MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF ENDOR . . .

story by Michael A. Stackpole
script by Jim Hall and Drew Johnson
pencils by John Nadeau
inks by Gary Martin
colors by Perry McNamee
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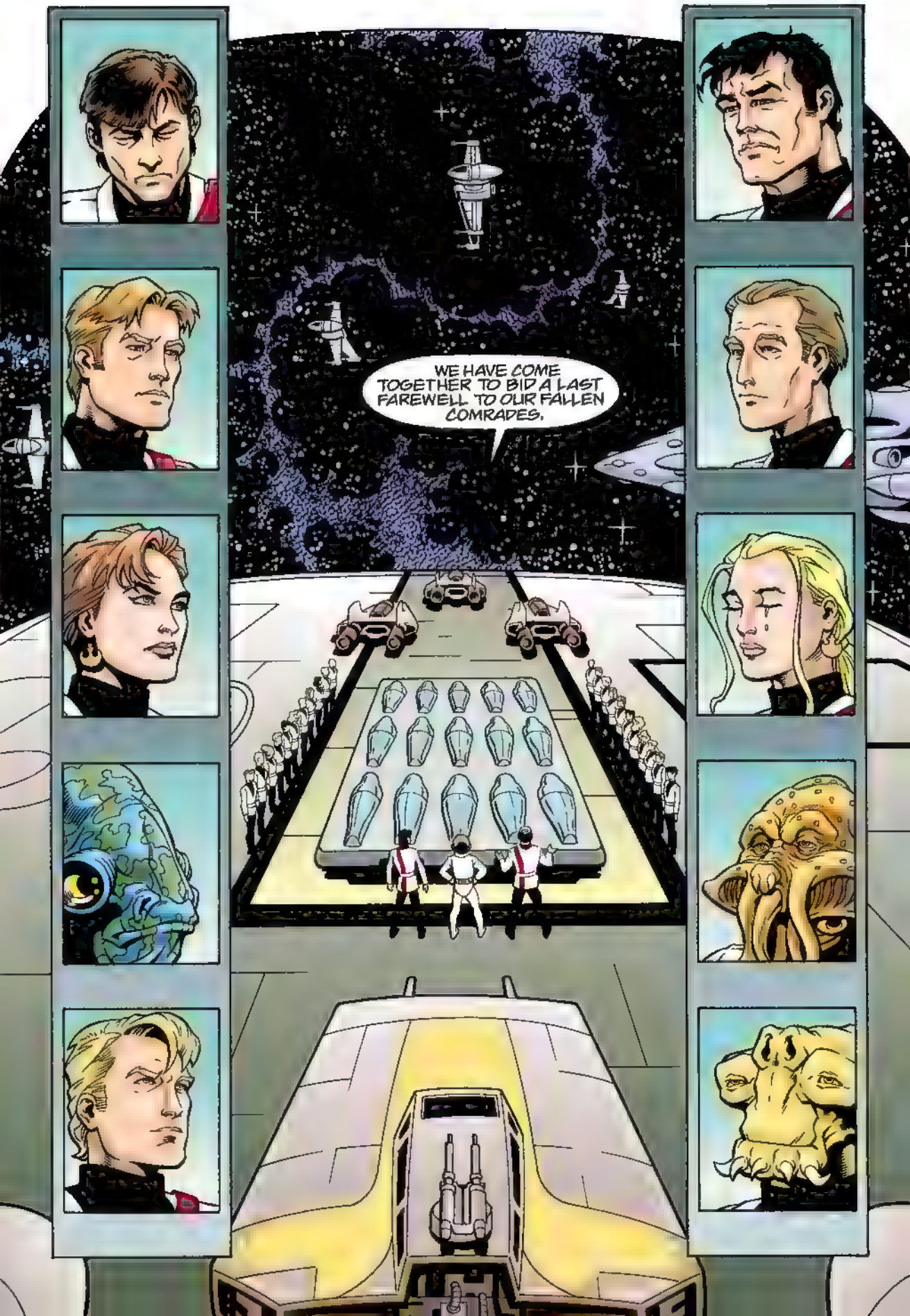
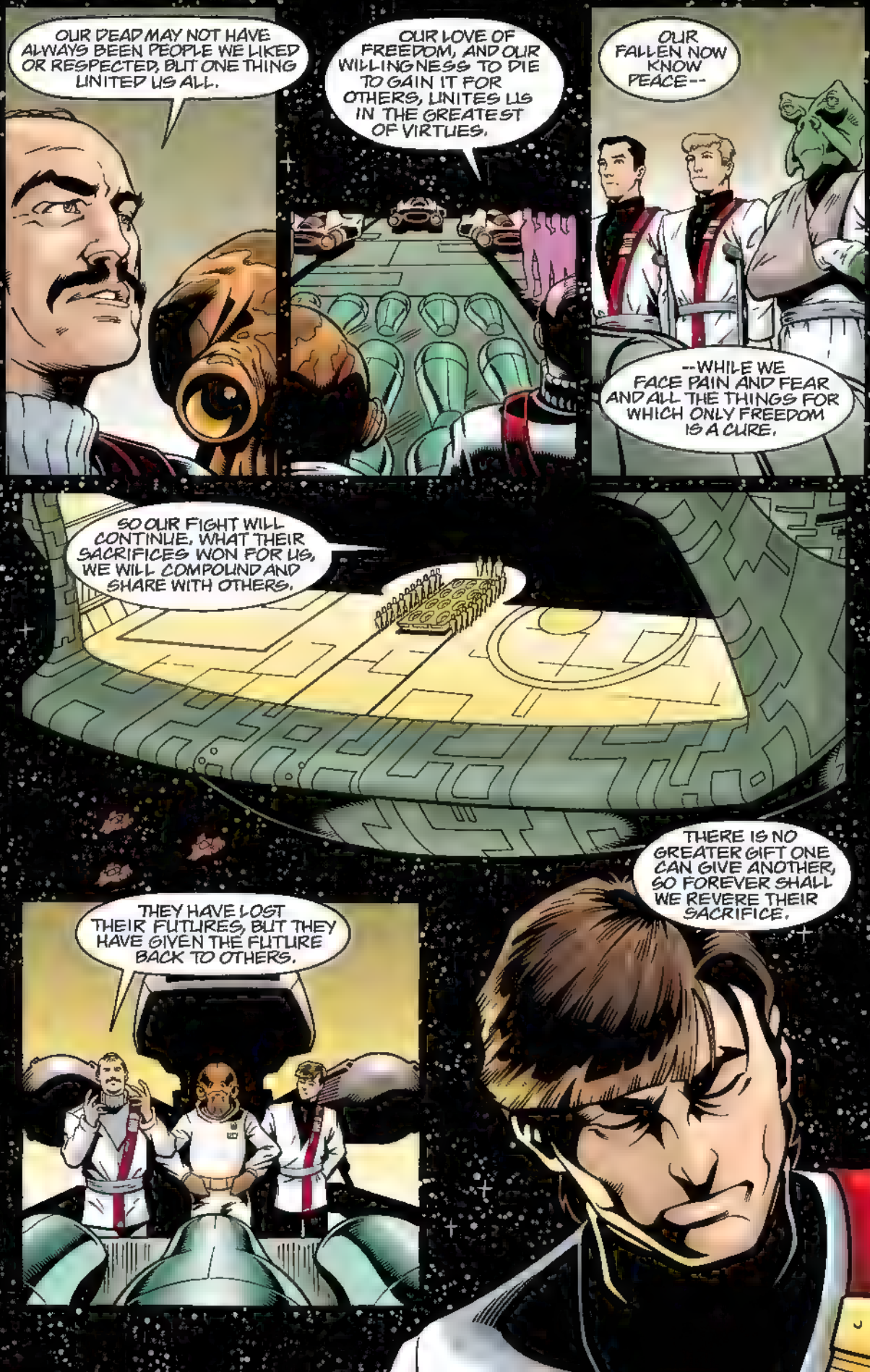
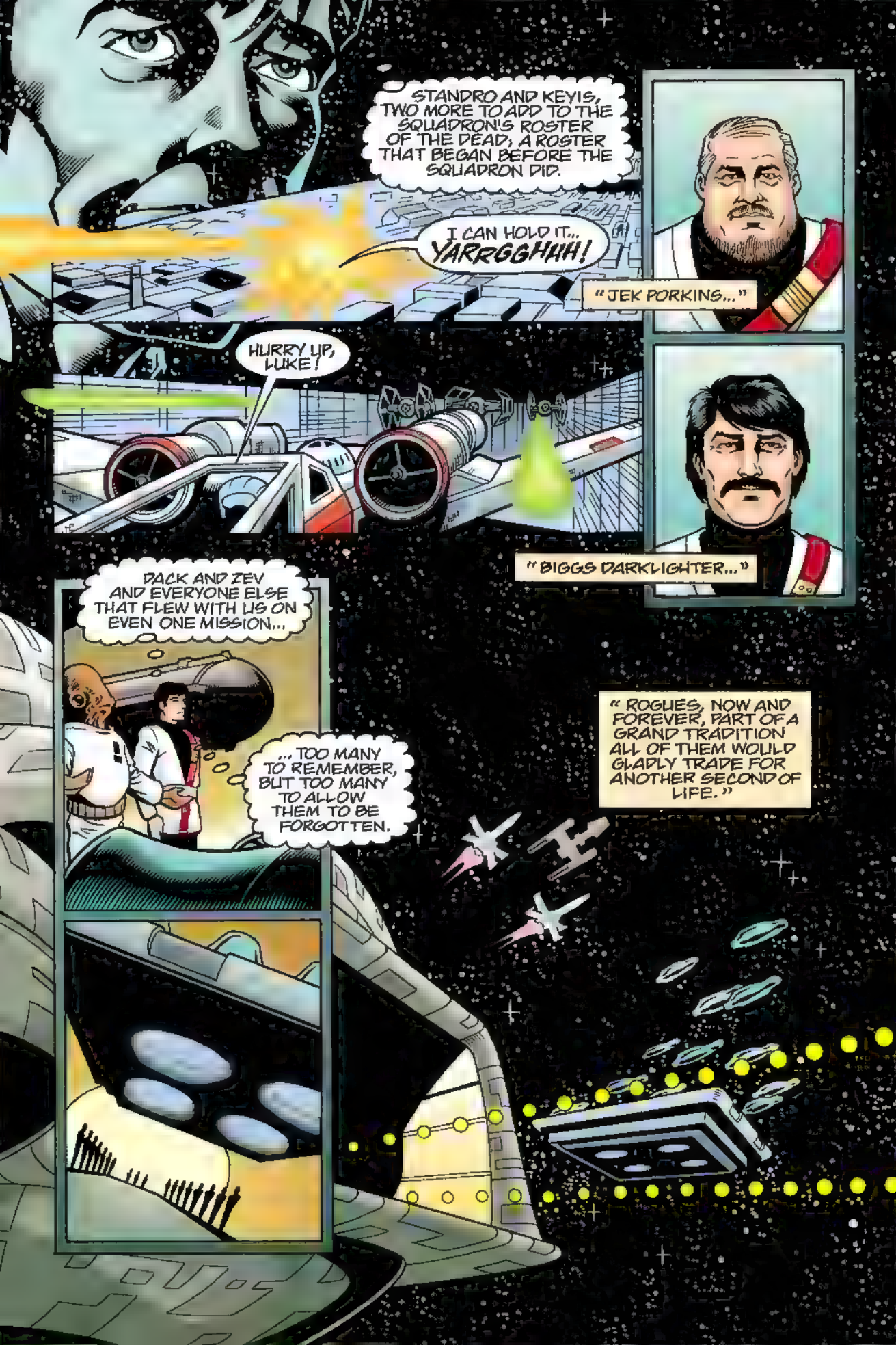
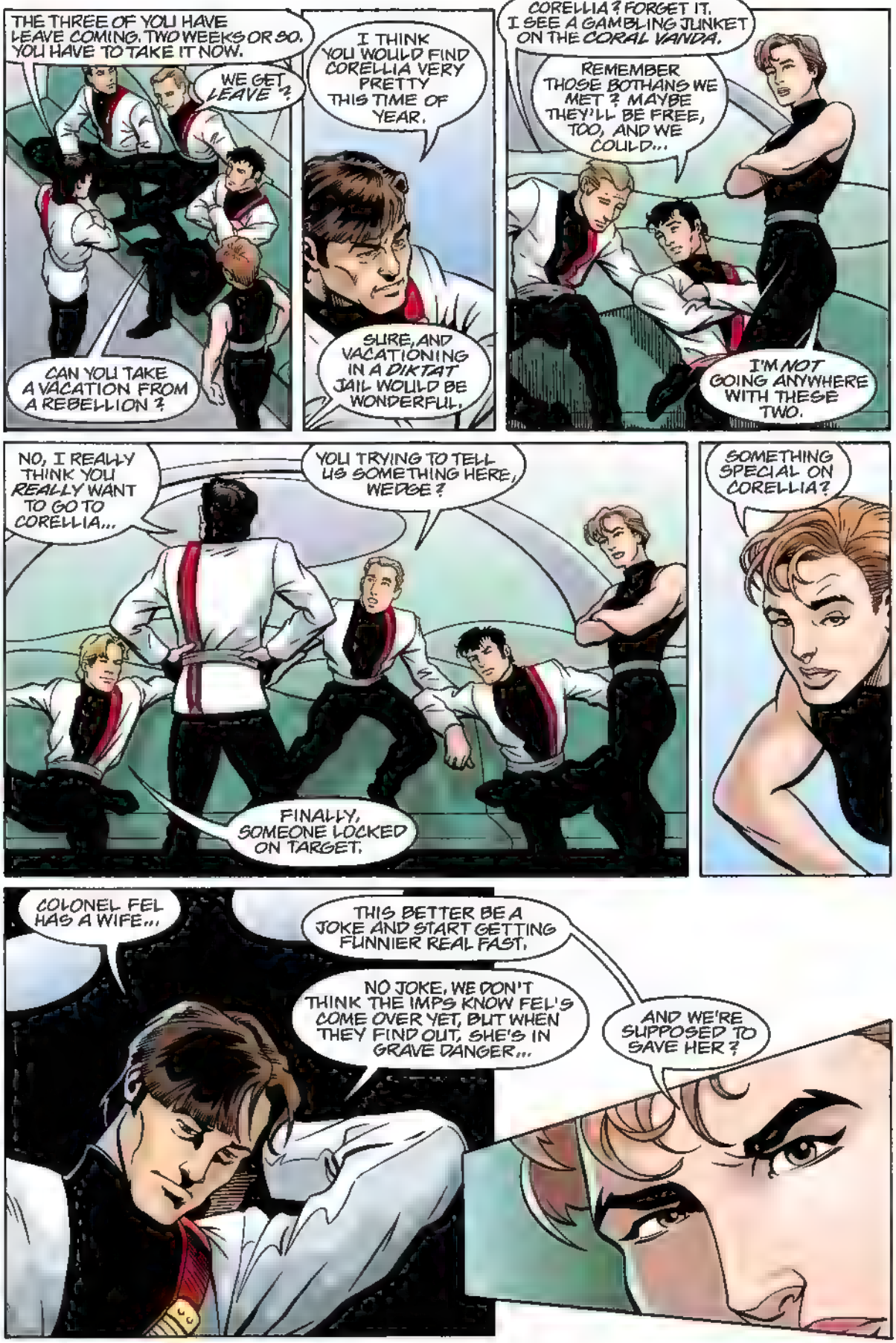

WE HAVE COME TOGETHER TO BID A LAST FAREWELL TO OUR FALLEN COMRADES.


OUR DEAD MAY NOT HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PEOPLE WE LIKED OR RESPECTED, BUT ONE THING UNITED US ALL.
OUR LOVE OF FREEDOM, AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO DIE TO GAIN IT FOR OTHERS, UNITES US IN THE GREATEST OF VIRTUES.
OUR FALLEN NOW KNOW PEACE--
--WHILE WE FACE PAIN AND FEAR AND ALL THE THINGS FOR WHICH ONLY FREEDOM IS A CURE.
SO OUR FIGHT WILL CONTINUE. WHAT THEIR SACRIFICES WON FOR US, WE WILL COMPOUND AND SHARE WITH OTHERS.
THEY HAVE LOST THEIR FUTURES, BUT THEY HAVE GIVEN THE FUTURE BACK TO OTHERS.
THERE IS NO GREATER GIFT ONE CAN GIVE ANOTHER, SO FOREVER SHALL WE REVERE THEIR SACRIFICE.


STANDRO AND KEYIS, TWO MORE TO ADD TO THE SQUADRON'S ROSTER OF THE DEAD, A ROSTER THAT BEGAN BEFORE THE SQUADRON DID.
I CAN HOLD IT... YARRGGHHH!
"JEK PORKINS..."
HURRY UP, LUKE!
"BIGGS DARKLIGHTER..."
DACK AND ZEV AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT FLEW WITH US ON EVEN ONE MISSION...
...TOO MANY TO REMEMBER, BUT TOO MANY TO ALLOW THEM TO BE FORGOTTEN.
"ROGUES, NOW AND FOREVER, PART OF A GRAND TRADITION ALL OF THEM WOULD GLADLY TRADE FOR ANOTHER SECOND OF LIFE."

ORDER JUST CAME DOWN AND I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW, WE'VE GOT ONE REPLACEMENT PILOT FOR THE SQUADRON. COLONEL SOONTIR FEL.
THIS SURPRISES ALL OF YOU...
CAPTAIN, YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! THIS MAN, HE IS A WAR CRIMINAL! HE HAS KILLED DOZENS OF OUR PILOTS.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT US TO FLY WITH HIM!
NOT ONLY DO I EXPECT IT, NRIN, I *ORDER* IT. HOBBIE AND TYCHO AND FEYLIS WERE ALL IMPERIAL PILOTS FIRST. IN THIS WAR WE FIGHT OUR *ENEMIES*, NOT OUR ALLIES.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM ME.
DON'T MISTAKE HATRED FOR FEAR, FEL. GOOD PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE OF YOU...
PEOPLE DIED BECAUSE POWER BROKERS DID NOT CARE WHAT HAPPENED ON BRENTAAL. YOU LOST FRIENDS, I LOST MY ENTIRE LIFE.
YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU? WHY I'LL...
NOW YOU KNOW HOW THE REBELS FEEL...
PRECISELY, NRIN, WHICH IS WHY HE'S ONE OF US, NOW. AVAN, YOU'RE HIS WINGMAN. TAKE HIM TO THE SIMULATORS AND START TRAINING HIM.
HAD HE ANY MORALS, HE WOULD HAVE COME OVER LONG AGO.
THIS WAY, COLONEL.
THAT WENT WELL...
TARKIN'S FAMOUS LAST WORDS...
WES, HOBBIE, PLOURR, A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME.


THE THREE OF YOU HAVE LEAVE COMING. TWO WEEKS OR SO. YOU HAVE TO TAKE IT NOW.
WE GET LEAVE?
CAN YOU TAKE A VACATION FROM A REBELLION?
I THINK YOU WOULD FIND CORELLIA VERY PRETTY THIS TIME OF YEAR.
SURE, AND VACATIONING IN A DIKTAT JAIL WOULD BE WONDERFUL.
CORELLIA? FORGET IT. I SEE A GAMBLING JUNKET ON THE CORAL VANDA.
REMEMBER THOSE BOTHANS WE MET? MAYBE THEY'LL BE FREE, TOO, AND WE COULD...
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITH THESE TWO.
NO, I REALLY THINK YOU REALLY WANT TO GO TO CORELLIA...
YOU TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING HERE, WEDGE?
FINALLY, SOMEONE LOCKED ON TARGET.
SOMETHING SPECIAL ON CORELLIA?
COLONEL FEL HAS A WIFE...
THIS BETTER BE A JOKE AND START GETTING FUNNIER REAL FAST.
NO JOKE. WE DON'T THINK THE IMPS KNOW FEL'S COME OVER YET, BUT WHEN THEY FIND OUT, SHE'S IN GRAVE DANGER...
AND WE'RE SUPPOSED TO SAVE HER?

SHE'S INNOCENT.
SHE HAS BAD TASTE IN MEN. SHE PAYS THE PRICE.
FEL IS MARRIED TO WYNSSA STARFLARE.
THE ACTRESS? WE'LL BE SAVING HER?
LET HER ACT HER WAY PAST ISARD. IF SHE'S GOOD, SHE LIVES.
FORGET THE BOTHANS. DID YOU SEE HER IN...
SHE'S ALSO MY SISTER.
YOUR... SISTER?
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET US KNOW YOU HAD A BABE FOR A SISTER?
IDIOT, YOU DON'T ASK THAT KIND OF QUESTION. ONLY ONE QUESTION TO ASK NOW...
THWAP
OUCH. YEAH, WHAT'S THAT?
WHEN DO WE LEAVE, SIR?
MY EAR STILL HURTS...

YOUR EAR SHOULD STILL HURT.

WE'VE GOT LANDING CLEARANCE. STRAP IN.

I'M GATHERING WE WON'T GET TO HAVE ANY FUN ON THIS TRIP, THEN, PLOURR?

GETTING IN AND GETTING OUT IS ABOUT ALL THE FUN I WANT.

REMEMBER, WHEN SHE HAS FUN, SOMETHING BLEEDS, OFTEN US.

CORONET CITY, JEWEL OF CORELLIA.

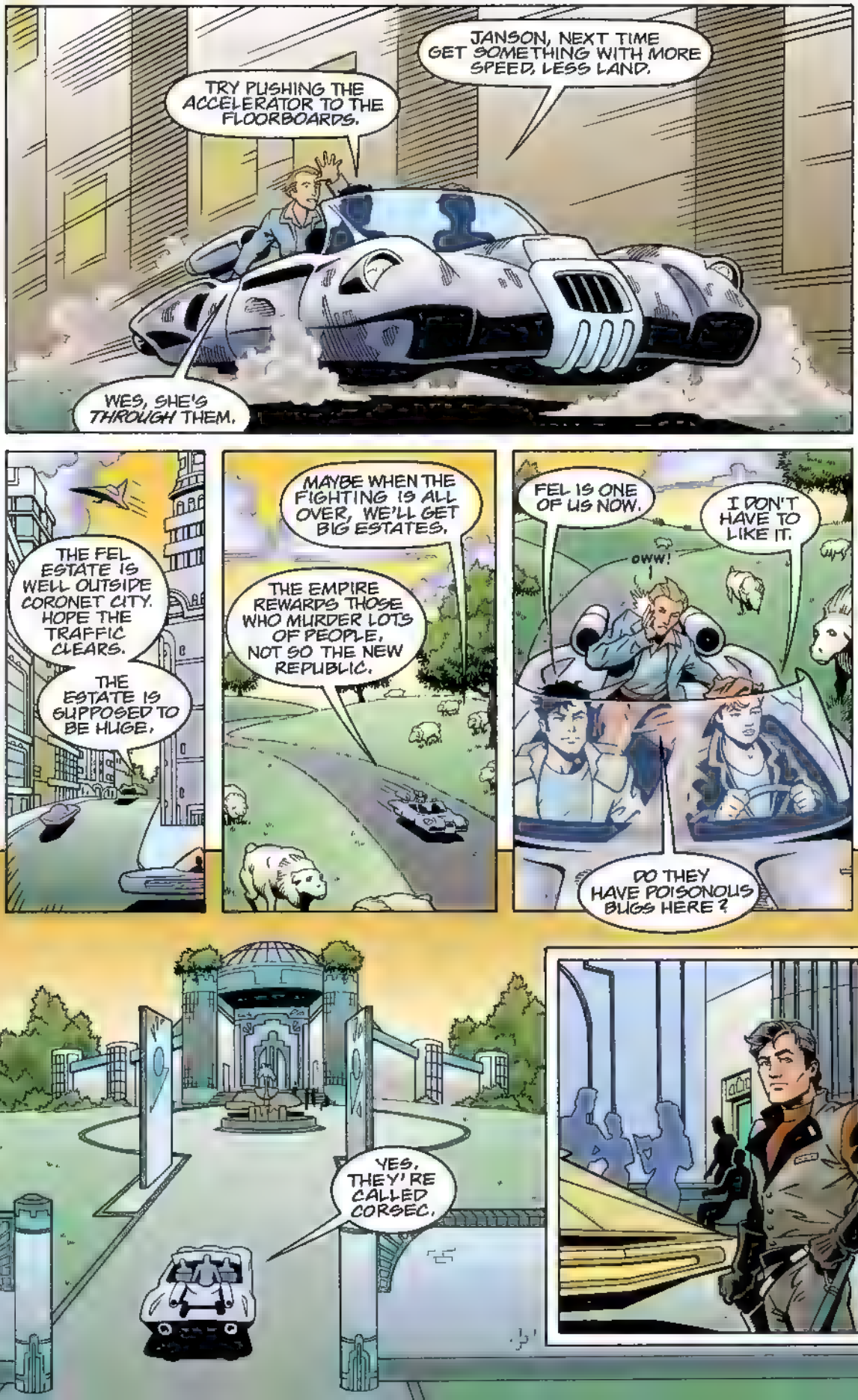
WOW, LOOK AT THIS PLACE. SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT IT.

WHAT'S WEIRD IS THAT IT'S NOT BEEN WASTED BY FIGHTING.

CORELLIA HAS LARGELY STAYED OUT OF THE CIVIL WAR.

A PLACE WITHOUT WAR. NEVER THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE.

LET'S HOPE IT'S CATCHING. THERE'S THE DOCKMASTER WITH THE LANDSPEEDER WE WANTED.


JANSON, NEXT TIME GET SOMETHING WITH MORE SPEED, LESS LAND.
TRY PUSHING THE ACCELERATOR TO THE FLOORBOARDS.
WES, SHE'S THROUGH THEM.
THE FEL ESTATE IS WELL OUTSIDE CORONET CITY. HOPE THE TRAFFIC CLEARS.
THE ESTATE IS SUPPOSED TO BE HUGE.
MAYBE WHEN THE FIGHTING IS ALL OVER, WE'LL GET BIG ESTATES.
THE EMPIRE REWARDS THOSE WHO MURDER LOTS OF PEOPLE, NOT SO THE NEW REPUBLIC.
FEL IS ONE OF US NOW.
I DON'T HAVE TO LIKE IT.
OWW!
DO THEY HAVE POISONOUS BUGS HERE?
YES, THEY'RE CALLED CORSEC.

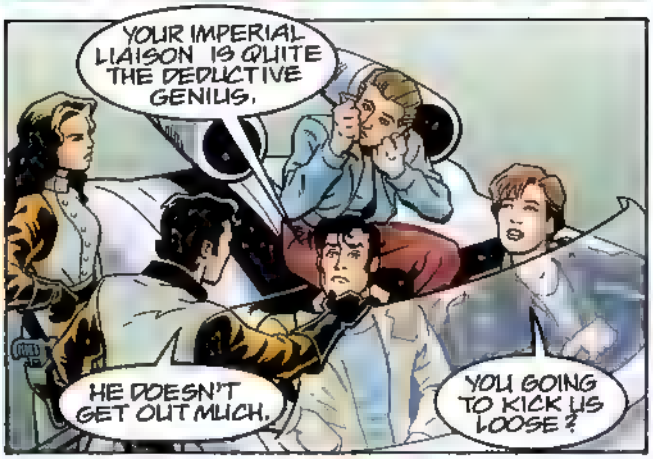
'MORNING, OFFICER HORN WITH CORSEC. CAN I ASK YOU WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?
WE'VE COME FOR A VISIT WITH THE FELS.
I SEE. NASTY BITE YOU HAVE THERE, PAL.
I HOPE THERE'S NO TROUBLE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM, OFFICER?
JUST A BIT. FYRIC, THE TWO-YEAR OLD, WAS KIDNAPPED THIS MORNING.
YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BE COMING FOR A VISIT EARLIER, DID YOU?
YOU THINK WE TOOK THE CHILD?
SHOULD I?
THEY SAY THEY WERE COMING FOR A VISIT. DO YOU KNOW THEM?
WE SAID WE WERE GOING TO WEDGE A VISIT IN ON OUR NEXT TRIP HERE.
A VISIT?

WEDGE A VISIT IN, YES. NOW IS NOT A GOOD TIME, MY SON...
OF COURSE NOT. WE'RE DOCKED IN BAY 385. WE'LL BE GOING. WE DON'T WANT TO INTRUDE.
PEOPLE DON'T DIE OF BUG BITES, DO THEY?
NOT WITHOUT LOTS OF SUFFERING FIRST.
YOU WAIT RIGHT HERE FOR A MOMENT.
THESE CLOWNS CLAIM TO BE FRIENDS OF THE FELS, BUT I HAVE A HUNCH THEY AREN'T.
BETTER HOPE THEY ARE. I'M GETTING NOTHING FROM THE FAMILY. THEY SAY THERE'S NO RANSOM DEMAND, BUT IF NOT, WHY TAKE THE KID?
I FEEL WOOZY. AM I PALE?
THE BITE WON'T KILL YOU, BUT I MIGHT IF YOU DON'T SHUT UP.
OUR BABY...
OH, GREAT, JUST WHAT WE NEED.
I'D LIKE A WORD WITH YOU BOTH.
DON'T ANTAGONIZE HIM.
YES, AGENT LOOR?
THIS IS MY CASE NOW. I'LL WANT YOUR NOTES, ROUND EVERYONE UP AND BRING THEM TO HEADQUARTERS FOR QUESTIONING, INCLUDING THEM.

BRING *THEM* IN, SIR? THEY KNOW NOTHING.
SPEEDER WON'T AND WE'VE NO GUNS.
RUN OR FIGHT?
HANG ON.
YOU'LL WASTE VALUABLE TIME AND RESOURCES BRINGING THEM IN. BESIDES...
THEY WERE JUST IN THE AREA. WE ASKED WHAT THEY HAD SEEN AND THEY SAW NOTHING. WE HAVE THEIR DATA AND CAN FOLLOW UP IF WE NEED TO.
YOU MAY THINK YOU KNOW IT ALL, HORN.
WE JUST THINK YOUR INVESTIGATIVE TALENTS ARE BETTER USED HERE, AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
YOUR PEOPLE ARE ALREADY LOST WITHOUT YOU, SIR.
AND YOU KNOW KIDNAPPINGS CREATE THE NEED FOR INTENSIVE AND THOROUGH CRIME-SCENE ANALYSIS.
THESE GUYS WENT THROUGH THE ESTATE'S DEFENSES EASIER THAN REBELS GO THROUGH A DEATH STAR.

IT WOULD BE JUST LIKE REBEL SCUM TO KIDNAP THE NEPHEW OF AN IMPERIAL HERO. GOOD. A CHANCE TO CRUSH THEM.

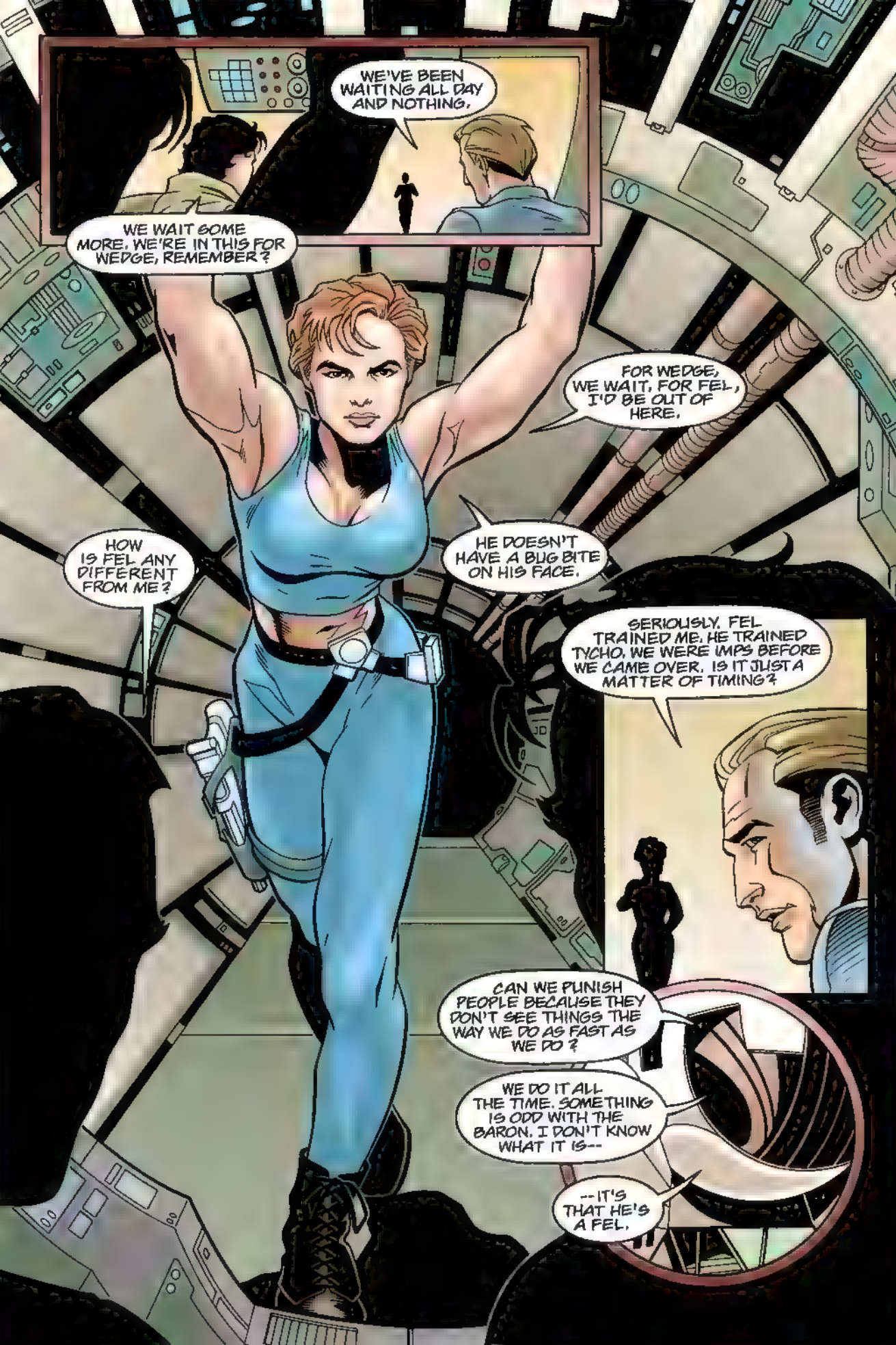
CAPTAIN, SEND FOR BACK-UP. REBELS WERE INVOLVED.
THAT'S WHY HE'S IMPERIAL AND WE'RE JUST LOCAL.
OKAY, I DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING.


YOUR IMPERIAL LIAISON IS QUITE THE DEDUCTIVE GENIUS.
HE DOESN'T GET OUT MUCH.
YOU GOING TO KICK US LOOSE?

SURE. LOOK, IF YOU ARE FRIENDS OF THE FELS, CONVINCE THEM TO COOPERATE WITH US.
THIS ISN'T A PROBLEM THEY CAN HANDLE THEMSELVES.

WHO SAYS THEY WILL HAVE TO HANDLE IT ALONE?
THE GUYS WHO HIT THIS PLACE WERE VERY GOOD. DON'T COMPOUND TROUBLE.

WE'LL BE NO TROUBLE AT ALL.
FAMOUS LAST WORDS.
WHY DO I HAVE A FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE MESSY?


WE'VE BEEN WAITING ALL DAY AND NOTHING.
WE WAIT SOME MORE. WE'RE IN THIS FOR WEDGE, REMEMBER?
FOR WEDGE, WE WAIT. FOR FEL, I'D BE OUT OF HERE.
HOW IS FEL ANY DIFFERENT FROM ME?
HE DOESN'T HAVE A BUG BITE ON HIS FACE.
SERIOUSLY. FEL TRAINED ME. HE TRAINED TYCHO. WE WERE IMPS BEFORE WE CAME OVER. IS IT JUST A MATTER OF TIMING?
CAN WE PUNISH PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T SEE THINGS THE WAY WE DO AS FAST AS WE DO?
WE DO IT ALL THE TIME. SOMETHING IS ODD WITH THE BARON. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS--
--IT'S THAT HE'S A FEL.

IT'S THE FELS. THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN. THEY KEEP TO THEIR OWN. I WAS WARNED, BUT I DIDN'T LISTEN.
SIT HERE. CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING TO DRINK?
SOMETHING STRONG.
ANY IDEA WHO TOOK YOUR SON, OR WHY?
DON'T KNOW WHO REALLY, BUT WHY IS EASY.
SCONTIR'S WIFE IS SOME ACTRESS AND SHE'S GONE INTO HIDING. THEY TOOK LITTLE FYRIC TO GET THE FELS TO TELL THEM WHERE SHE'S GONE.
DO THEY KNOW?
THEY KNOW ALL RIGHT.
THEY SAY FELS PROTECT THEIR OWN, SO THEY WON'T TELL WHERE SHE IS. THEY SAY TO ME, "AJAI, FYRIC WILL UNDERSTAND. HE'S A FEL."

HE'S A CHILD.
HE'S MY CHILD, MY BABY. THEY'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE HIM, A BLOOD FEL, FOR HER, A FEL BY MARRIAGE. THEY CAN'T DO THAT.
BUT YOU WANT HER, TOO. I CAN GIVE HER TO YOU.
IF WE SAVE YOUR CHILD.
YOU A MOTHER?
NO.
THEN DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME FOR WANTING TO SAVE MY BABY. YOU DON'T KNOW.
WHAT I DON'T LIKE IS YOUR WILLINGNESS TO SELL YOUR SISTER-IN-LAW TO US.
YOU'RE FROM HER BROTHER, RIGHT? SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH YOU?

SHE'LL BE SAFE WITH US, YES.
GOOD, BECAUSE I'LL KILL HER IF I SEE HER AGAIN. GET MY BABY AND I'LL GIVE HER TO YOU.
YOU HAVE A PLACE FOR US TO START LOOKING?
KIDNAPPERS WANTED TO MEET, BUT THE FELS REFUSED. DATA IS RIGHT HERE.
SAVE MY BABY, PLEASE.
THAT AJAI WAS REALLY COLD.
HAVING YOUR CHILD KIDNAPPED DOES LITTLE FOR YOUR CHARM.
HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE THIS?
LEAVE IT TO ME. ON ELATTU, NOBLES OFTEN HAD CHILDREN KIDNAPPED.
HI, HANDSOME.
I'M BUSY. BE AROUND LATER?
WITH KIDNAPPERS, YOU APPEAL TO THEIR GREED.
WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH MONEY.
I SAID APPEAL, NOT PAY.

YOU WISH. COME BACK WHEN THAT BUG BITE IS HEALED, LITTLE BOY.
AND IF THEY DON'T LISTEN TO YOU?
ON EIATTU, KIDNAPPING IS A CAPITAL CRIME.
THIS SHOULD BE THE PLACE.
NOTHING GOOD EVER CAME FROM A MEETING IN AN ALLEY.
THE NIGHT IS YOUNG.
IT'S NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER. DO YOU HAVE WHAT I WANT?
I HAVE WHAT YOU TRULY WANT.
THINK SO? I DON'T SEE HER.
I HAVE MONEY, YOU HAVE THIS BOY. MAKE THE EXCHANGE.
IF I DON'T?
IT WILL HURT. A LOT.
YOU INTRIGUE ME. YOU BACK UP THOSE MEAN WORDS WITH ACTION?
I DO.

GOOD. BEAT MY WEEQUAY HERE AND I'LL TAKE YOUR MONEY AND GIVE YOU THE BOY.
WEEQUAYS ARE NASTY.
I CAN BE NASTIER.
COME ON. THE FASTER WE START, THE FASTER YOU START HEALING.
WHEN I TRAINED AS A WARRIOR, WE DIDN'T SPAR WITH WEEQUAYS...

...THEY'RE SLOW...
...THEY WEAR THIS RIDICULOUS QUEUE...
...THEY'RE STUPID...
GRRRK!
...AND THEY'RE JUST TOO FRAGILE!
BRAVO. SUCH FINESSE.

DID I MENTION THEY ALSO CHEAT?
CRAACK!
ODD YOU SHOULD MENTION THAT... SO DO I. BOYS, TAKE THEIR BLASTERS.
BIG MISTAKE.
I THINK NOT. THE FELS WILL PAY FOR THEIR BOY, AND THE PEOPLE OF EIATTU WILL PAY TO GET YOU BACK.
YOU DON'T GET ME WITHOUT A FIGHT.
SHALL I QUOTE YOU IN MY MEMOIRS?
YOU'LL REGRET THIS.
NONSENSE. KILL THE OTHER TWO AND BRING HER TO ME. RESIST ME, ISPLOURRDACARTHA, AND YOU CAN EXPLAIN TO AJAI FEL WHY YOU LET HER CHILD DIE.

I ASSURE YOU, PLOURR, IF YOU RESIST, MORE THAN YOUR FRIENDS WILL DIE.
WE GOT WITNESSES.
VAPE THEM.
NO GUTS FOR WET-WORK?
I WAS SPOILED AS A CHILD. NEVER LIKED MESSES.
YOU'LL BE ONE WHEN I'M FREE.
WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME, FOLKS.
STORY OF MY LIFE.

BET YOU GUYS DON'T HAVE A PERMIT FOR EXECUTIONS, DO YOU?
CORSEC! GIVE IT UP!
GAHHH!
PATHETIC EXCUSES FOR WARRIORS. BRING BACK THE WEEQUAY!
UGNNH!
CRACK!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY, SITHSPAWN!
POST IS RUNNING!
TAKE HIM. I'LL COVER YOU.

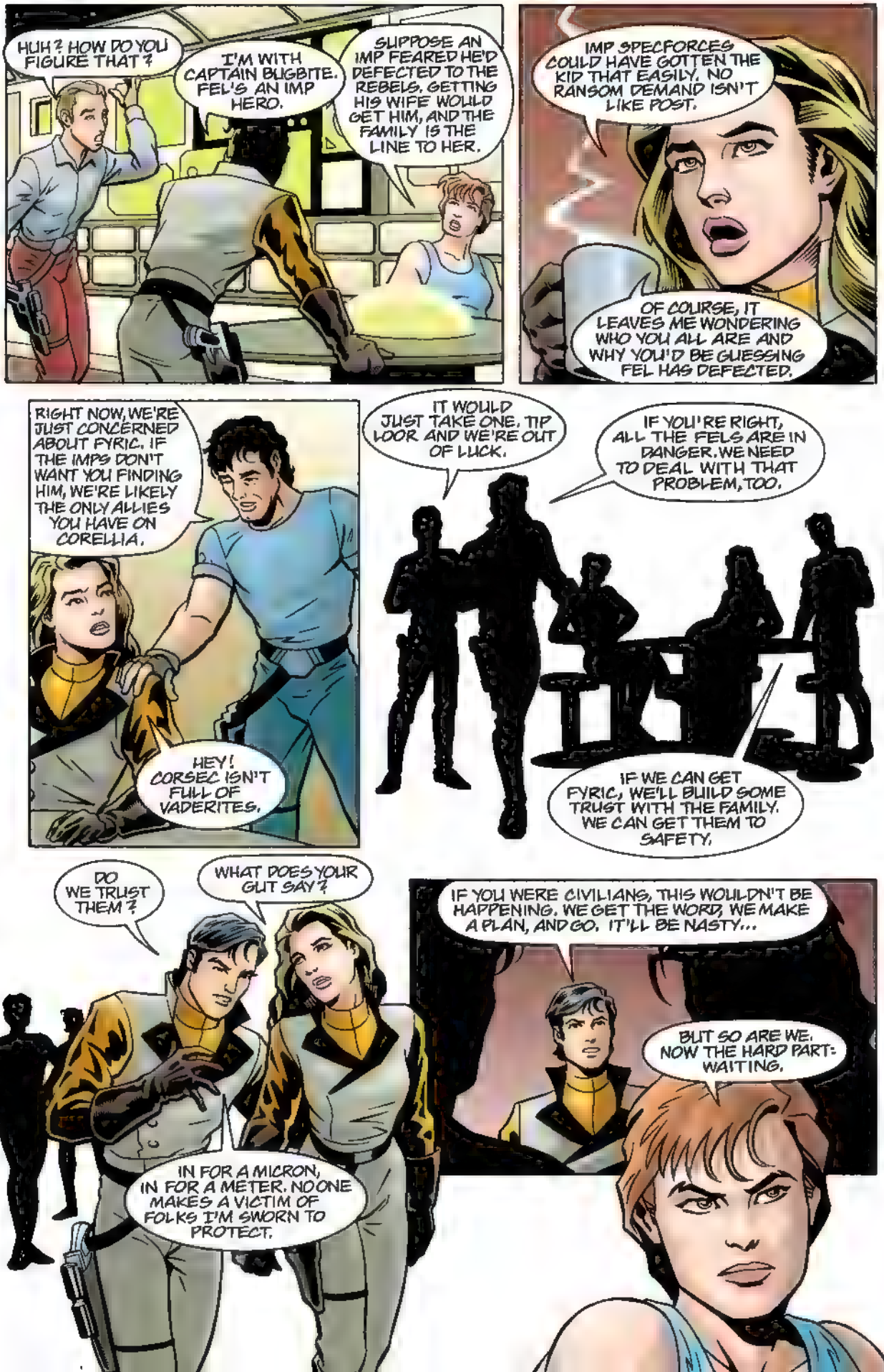
MOVING TARGET, AT NIGHT, MIDDLE OF A FIREFIGHT.
YOUR POINT IS?
EASIER THAN SPOTTING A HUTT AT A JAWA CONVENTION.
NOW FOR SOME WET-WORK OF MY OWN.
GET OUT OF MY SHOT!

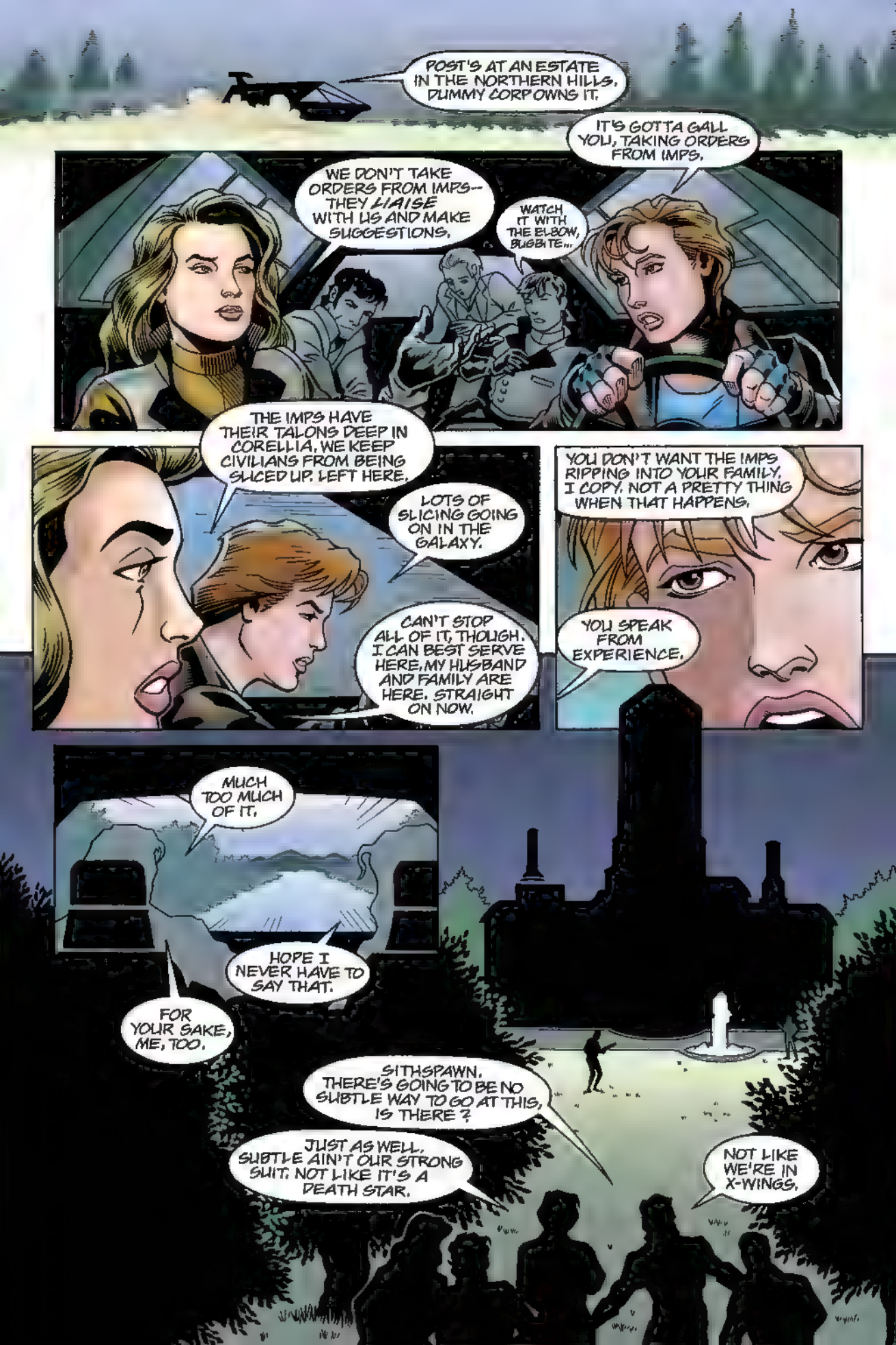
NOT A WISE MOVE, PRINCESS.
I'M STILL HERE, AREN'T I?
YOU'LL FIND DEFEAT CRUSHING!
SAYS MY GRIP TO YOUR THROAT.
DROLL, PRINCESS, BUT NOT AMUSING ENOUGH TO LET YOU LIVE.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT IN A SECOND, WON'T WE?
A BIT SOONER, I THINK. FAREWELL, PLOURR.

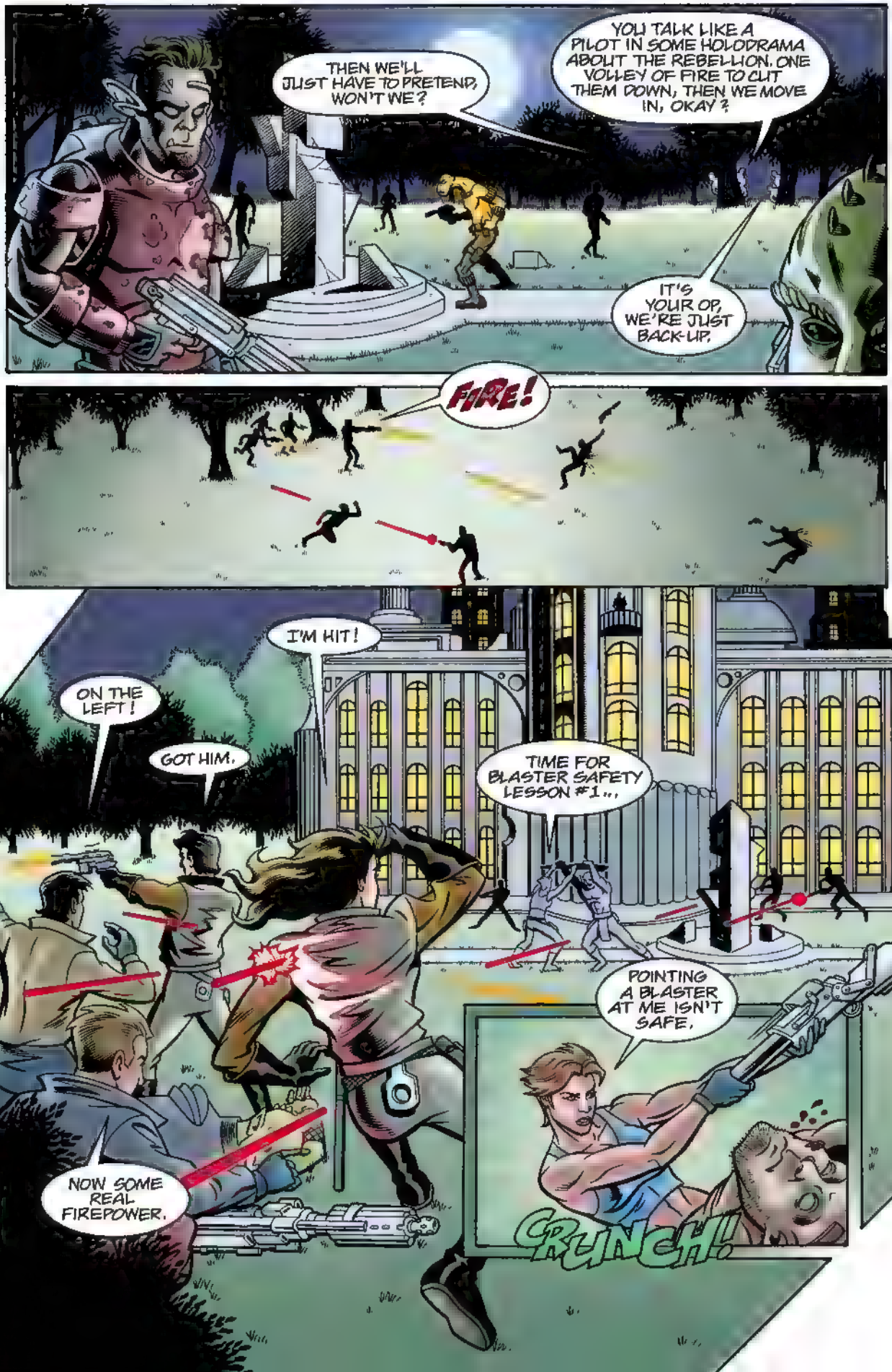
STANG! SULLUSTAN DRIVERS.
LIGNNHH!
CRAASH!
HEROIC EFFORTS DO NOT ALWAYS PRODUCE HEROIC RESULTS.
KKRRASSH!
CHEEBLE CHEEBLE CHEEBLE
DON'T CHEEBLE YOURSELF INTO A STROKE, I AM CORSEC.
SITHSPAWN, NO SHOT.

THIS IS CS 142995. SUSPECTS DOWN AT THE ALLEY BETWEEN HALCYON AND CURRENT, SOUTH OF WHITE WAY...
THAT WAS THE BRAVEST OR STUPIDEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN.
ASIDE FROM YOUR MAKING THAT REMARK, YOU MEAN?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE TROUBLE.
YOU CALL THIS TROUBLE?
YOU GUESSING?
IF YOU'D FOLLOWED ME, I'D HAVE KNOWN. YOU WERE WAITING.
WE WANT TO SEE THE KID SAFE. WHO WAS THAT GUY I CHASED?
YOU DIDN'T TRUST US ANYWAY, WHICH IS WHY YOU FOLLOWED US.
THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW US.
SCORE ONE FOR YOUR SIDE, WHICHEVER SIDE THAT IS.
ILIR POST. A FEW STORMIES SHY OF AN ASSAULT WHERE THE FELS ARE CONCERNED.
HELP'S ON THE WAY. WE TAKE THEM IN?
NOT YET. I HAVE A HUNCH THEY'VE GOT INFORMATION WE NEED.
YOUR HUNCH, YOUR PLAY.
HELP US AND YOU HELP THE KID.
FINE. OUR SHIP IS NEARBY.

...FEL FIRST BROUGHT CORSEC DOWN ON POST. POST LATER DID TIME ON KESSEL AND BLAMES IT ON FEL.
AND FOR THAT A LITTLE BOY DIES?
POST WON'T DO IT HIMSELF, SO WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME TO FIND FYRIC.
SINCE YOU WERE WAITING FOR THE MEET, YOU HAVE AN INFORMANT INSIDE. HE'LL TELL YOU WHEN POST ASKS FOR SOMEONE TO VAPE THE KID. AND YOU'LL FIND OUT WHERE?
WE'LL GET BACK-UP AND TAKE HIM.
BACK-UP? WHO? YOUR IMP FRIEND?
DON'T GET HIM STARTED!
LOOR'S NO FRIEND OF MINE.
YOU CLEARLY DON'T THINK HE'S MUCH OF AN INVESTIGATOR.
LOOR COULDN'T FIND HIS HANDS IF YOU STARTED HIM LOOKING AT HIS WRISTS.
AND I DON'T THINK HE WAS THERE TO FIND ANYTHING USEFUL EITHER. ALL HE DID WAS TAKE YOU OFF THE CASE.
YOUR POINT BEING?
THE KIDNAPPING WAS A SLICK OP, ONE SLICKER THAN POST'S VAPEBAIT HELP COULD HAVE MANAGED. I THINK POST IS BROKERING THIS DEAL FOR SOME FOLKS, AND THEY DON'T WANT ANYONE BUT THEIR HANDPICKED FOLKS TO BE LOOKING TOO CLOSELY AT THE DETAILS.
THIS WAS AN IMP OP, NOSE TO TAIL.


HUH? HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?
I'M WITH CAPTAIN BUGBITE. FEL'S AN IMP HERO.
SUPPOSE AN IMP FEARED HE'D DEFECTED TO THE REBELS. GETTING HIS WIFE WOULD GET HIM, AND THE FAMILY IS THE LINE TO HER.
IMP SPECFORCES COULD HAVE GOTTEN THE KID THAT EASILY. NO RANSOM DEMAND ISN'T LIKE POST.
OF COURSE, IT LEAVES ME WONDERING WHO YOU ALL ARE AND WHY YOU'D BE GUESSING FEL HAS DEFECTED.
RIGHT NOW, WE'RE JUST CONCERNED ABOUT FYRIC. IF THE IMPS DON'T WANT YOU FINDING HIM, WE'RE LIKELY THE ONLY ALLIES YOU HAVE ON CORELLIA.
HEY! CORSEC ISN'T FULL OF VADERITES.
IT WOULD JUST TAKE ONE, TIP LOOR AND WE'RE OUT OF LUCK.
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, ALL THE FELS ARE IN DANGER. WE NEED TO DEAL WITH THAT PROBLEM, TOO.
IF WE CAN GET FYRIC, WE'LL BUILD SOME TRUST WITH THE FAMILY. WE CAN GET THEM TO SAFETY.
DO WE TRUST THEM?
WHAT DOES YOUR GUT SAY?
IN FOR A MICRON, IN FOR A METER. NO ONE MAKES A VICTIM OF FOLKS I'M SWORN TO PROTECT.
IF YOU WERE CIVILIANS, THIS WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING. WE GET THE WORD, WE MAKE A PLAN, AND GO. IT'LL BE NASTY...
BUT SO ARE WE. NOW THE HARD PART: WAITING.


POST'S AT AN ESTATE IN THE NORTHERN HILLS. DUMMY CORP OWNS IT.
IT'S GOTTA GALL YOU, TAKING ORDERS FROM IMPS.
WE DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM IMPS-- THEY LIAISE WITH US AND MAKE SUGGESTIONS.
WATCH IT WITH THE ELBOW, BUGBITE...
THE IMPS HAVE THEIR TALONS DEEP IN CORELLIA. WE KEEP CIVILIANS FROM BEING SLICED UP. LEFT HERE.
LOTS OF SLICING GOING ON IN THE GALAXY.
CAN'T STOP ALL OF IT, THOUGH. I CAN BEST SERVE HERE, MY HUSBAND AND FAMILY ARE HERE. STRAIGHT ON NOW.
YOU DON'T WANT THE IMPS RIPPING INTO YOUR FAMILY, I COPY. NOT A PRETTY THING WHEN THAT HAPPENS.
YOU SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE.
MUCH TOO MUCH OF IT.
HOPE I NEVER HAVE TO SAY THAT.
FOR YOUR SAKE, ME, TOO.
SITHSPAWN. THERE'S GOING TO BE NO SUBTLE WAY TO GO AT THIS, IS THERE?
JUST AS WELL. SUBTLE AIN'T OUR STRONG SUIT. NOT LIKE IT'S A DEATH STAR.
NOT LIKE WE'RE IN X-WINGS.

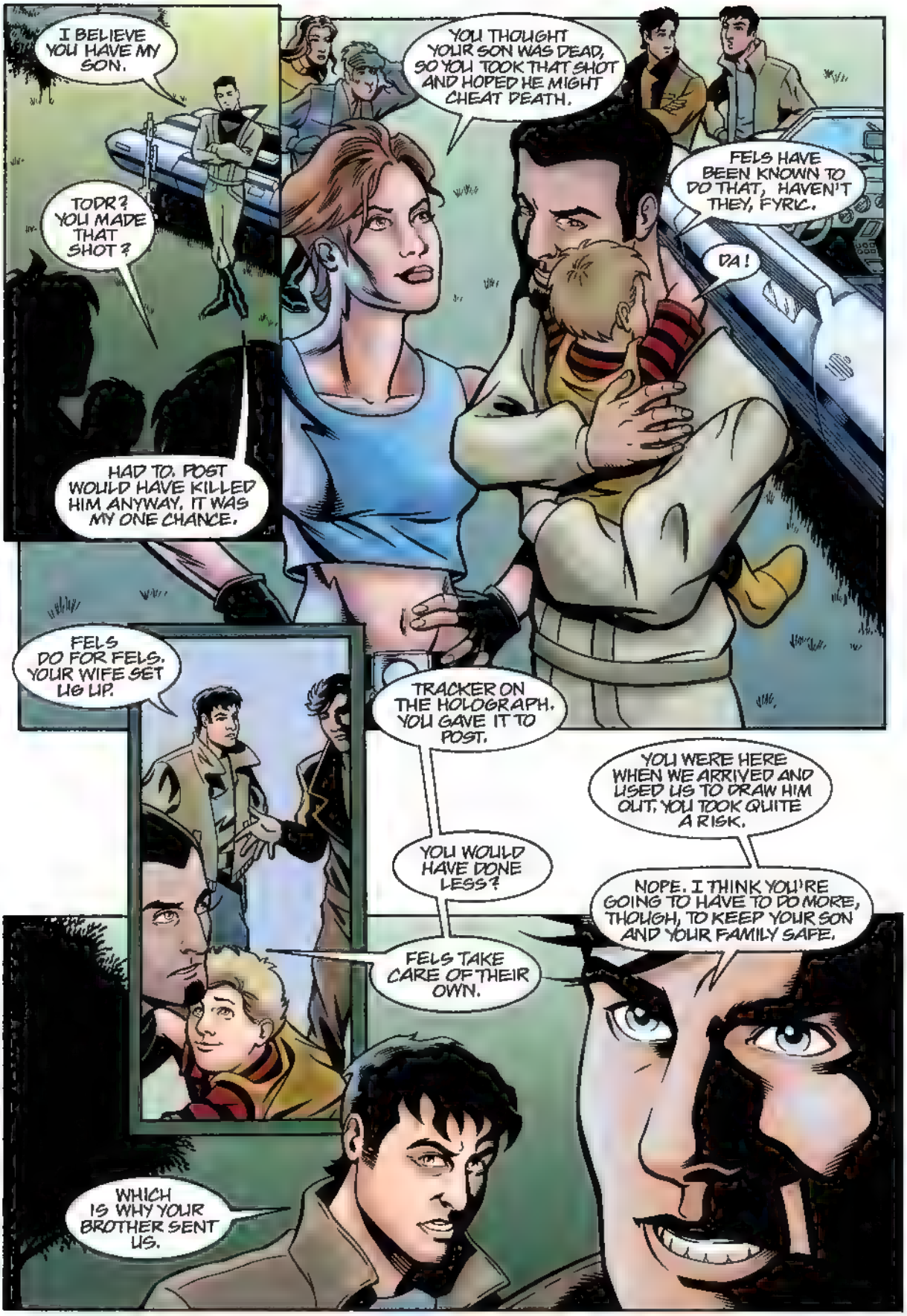

YOU TALK LIKE A PILOT IN SOME HOLODRAMA ABOUT THE REBELLION. ONE VOLLEY OF FIRE TO CUT THEM DOWN, THEN WE MOVE IN, OKAY?
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PRETEND, WON'T WE?
IT'S YOUR OP, WE'RE JUST BACK-UP.
FIRE!
I'M HIT!
ON THE LEFT!
GOT HIM.
TIME FOR BLASTER SAFETY LESSON #1...
POINTING A BLASTER AT ME ISN'T SAFE.
NOW SOME REAL FIREPOWER.
CRUNCH!

HANG IN THERE. I'M GOOD AT RESCUING GORGEOUS DAMSELS IN DISTRESS.
YOU REALIZE I'M MARRIED.
GOT A SISTER WHO'LL BE HAPPY YOU'RE ALIVE?
THUMP!
SHE'D DO MORE DAMAGE IF SHE'D ACTUALLY SHOOT THE RIFLE.
TELL HER THAT. SPOIL HER FUN.
NOT FOR ALL THE SPICE ON KESSEL.
I SHOULD HAVE VACATIONED ON CORELLIA SOONER.
ARE THERE MORE LIKE HER AT HOME?
A PLANET FULL.
THAT'S THE LAST OF THEM.
NOT THE LAST, NOT THE LEAST, BY A LONG SHOT.
KEEP THEM THERE.

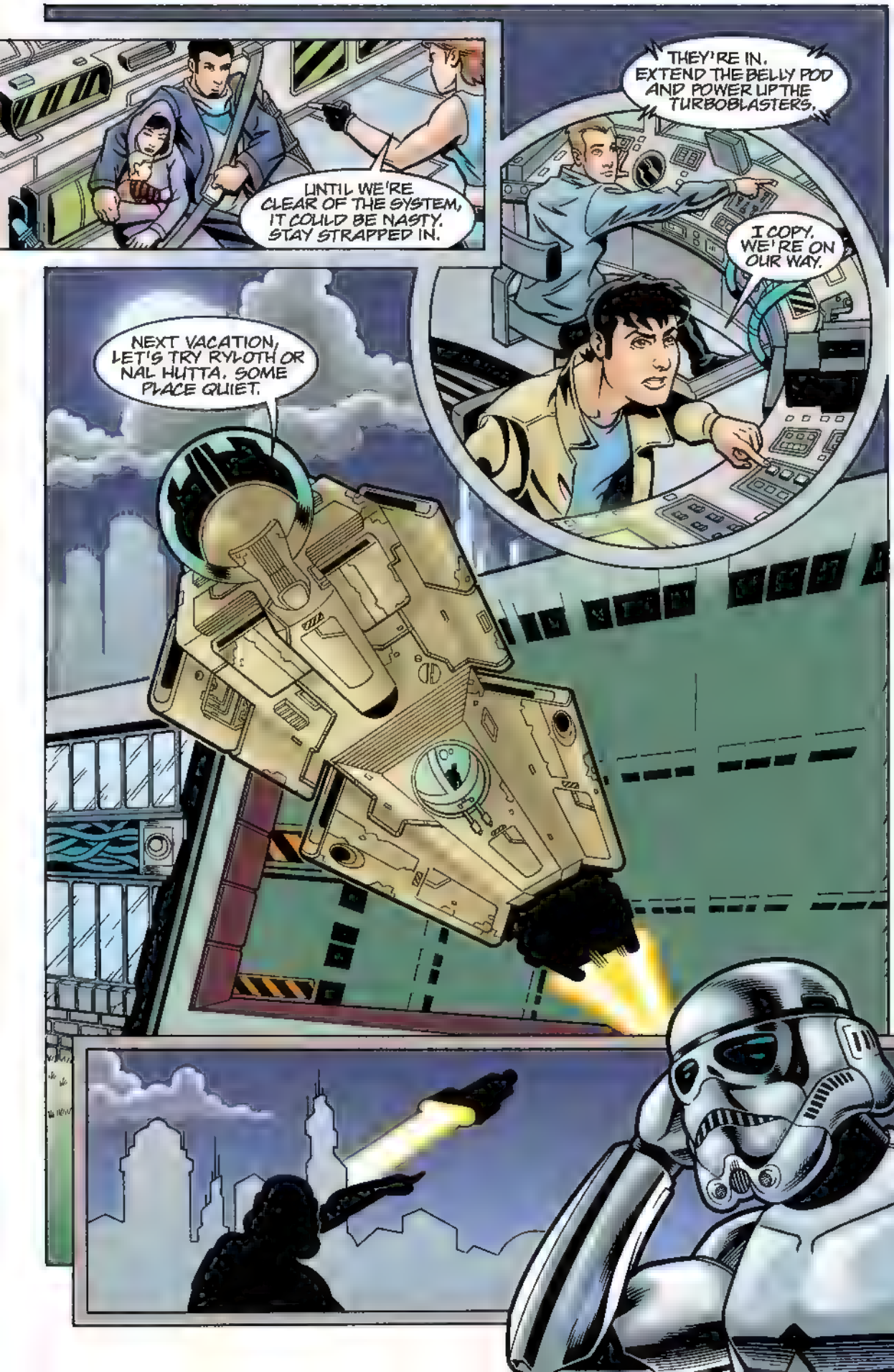
C'MON, GIVE ME A SHOT.
THIS IS A STAND OFF-- WHERE I STAND, AND YOU GET OFFED.
SITHSPAWN!
YOUR EFFORT IS OVER. NOW! WALK AWAY OR POWERS YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WILL PUNISH YOU MOST SEVERELY.
WE KNOW ABOUT YOUR IMP TIES, POST. THEY WON'T SAVE YOU.
NICE BLUFF, CORSEC, BUT IF YOU KNEW MY TIES, YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT. DROP YOUR WEAPONS, WALK AWAY AND YOU'LL LIVE.
WE WALK, HE SHOOTS US IN THE BACK.
I KNOW, BUT HE HAS THE KID.
THE KID HAS A LONG FALL AND YOU HAVE NO SHOT.
YOU HAVE TO THE COUNT OF...

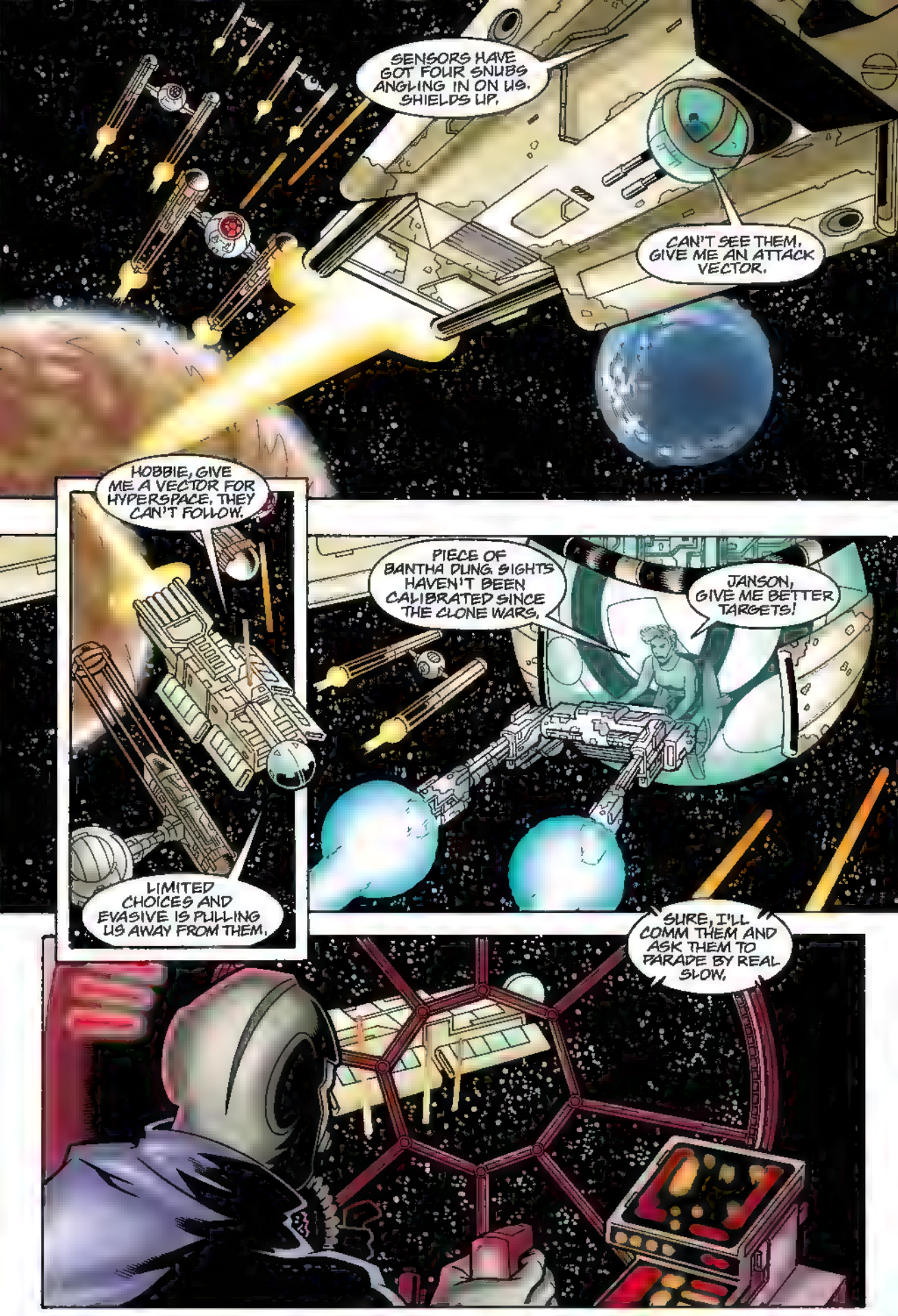
AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HEROIC EFFORTS PRODUCE TRULY HEROIC RESULTS.

I WISH I HAD GUN-CAMERA HOLOS OF THAT CATCH. THAT WAS INCREDIBLE.
DON'T HAVE TO HOLD HIM UP LIKE THAT, PLOURR. HE'S STOPPED FALLING.
YOU OKAY?
I'LL LIVE. NICE SHOT.
NOT WORRIED ABOUT THAT. HE NEEDS TO BE CHANGED.
NOT MY SHOT.
WHO?
NOT SURE. NICE SHOOTING, BUGBITE.
AFTER A FALL LIKE THAT, I'D NEED TO BE CHANGED.
SHOT WASN'T MINE.
WHO, THEN?
WEAPON'S MALFUNCTION, MAYBE. DOESN'T MATTER. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE AND GET THE KID TO SAFETY.

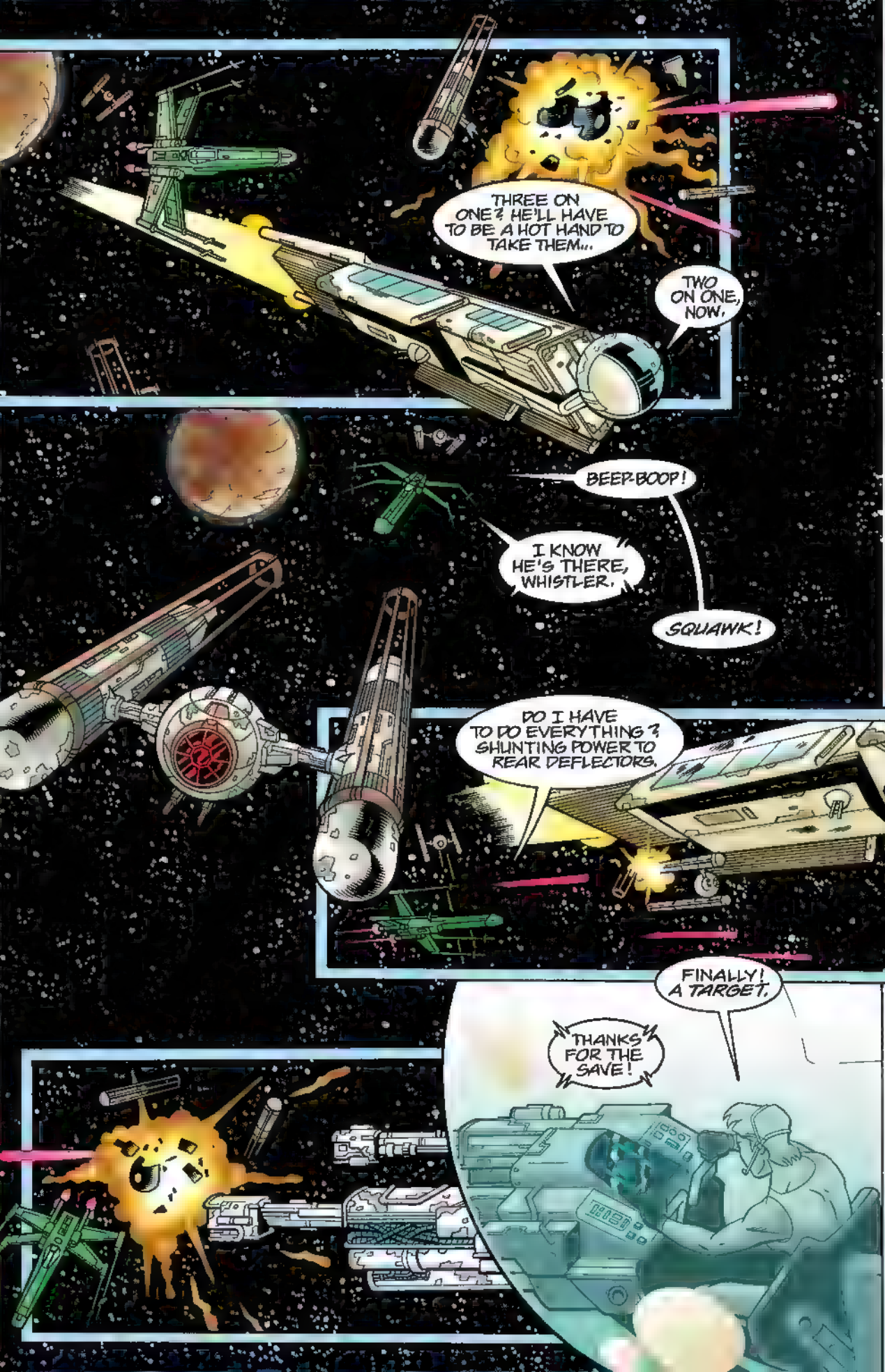

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE MY SON.
TODR? YOU MADE THAT SHOT?
HAD TO. POST WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM ANYWAY. IT WAS MY ONE CHANCE.
YOU THOUGHT YOUR SON WAS DEAD, SO YOU TOOK THAT SHOT AND HOPED HE MIGHT CHEAT DEATH.
FELS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DO THAT, HAVEN'T THEY, FYRIC.
DA!
FELS DO FOR FELS. YOUR WIFE SET US UP.
TRACKER ON THE HOLOGRAPH. YOU GAVE IT TO POST.
YOU WERE HERE WHEN WE ARRIVED AND USED US TO DRAW HIM OUT. YOU TOOK QUITE A RISK.
YOU WOULD HAVE DONE LESS?
NOPE. I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO MORE, THOUGH, TO KEEP YOUR SON AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE.
FELS TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN.
WHICH IS WHY YOUR BROTHER SENT US.

HE SENT YOU FOR HIS WIFE.
WE WERE SENT TO MAKE SURE SHE WAS SAFE. ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE THAT IS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE, TOO.
WE HAVE A SHIP AND WE CAN GET YOU OUT, ALL OF YOU. YOUR BROTHER'S SAFE, AND YOU CAN BE, TOO.
MAYBE YOU JUST WANT TO USE US TO GET TO HIM.
THE ONLY WAY I WANTED TO GET YOUR BROTHER WAS IN MY SIGHTS. I'M A WARRIOR, NOT A KIDNAPPER. YOUR BROTHER IS A WARRIOR. WARRIORS DO FOR WARRIORS.
MORE TRUTH IN THAT STATEMENT THAN IN ANYTHING THE EMPEROR EVER SAID TO MY BROTHER. I'LL TALK TO MY FAMILY. IF I DON'T SEE YOU AGAIN, THANK YOU.
NO MESSAGE FOR YOUR BROTHER?
HE KNOWS WHAT I WOULD SAY.
HOPE THEY GET HERE SOON. HORN SAID HE'D HOLD OFF FILING REPORTS AS LONG AS HE COULD.
ONCE HE FILES THEM, THE IMPS WILL BE ON TO US.
IF POST HAD A REPORTING SCHEDULE, THEY ALREADY KNOW SOMETHING IS WRONG.
OKAY, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
WE'RE NOT OUT OF HERE YET.


UNTIL WE'RE CLEAR OF THE SYSTEM, IT COULD BE NASTY. STAY STRAPPED IN.
THEY'RE IN. EXTEND THE BELLY POD AND POWER UP THE TURBOBLASTERS.
I COPY. WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
NEXT VACATION, LET'S TRY RYLOTH OR NAL HUTTA. SOME PLACE QUIET.


SENSORS HAVE GOT FOUR SNUBS ANGLING IN ON US. SHIELDS UP.
CAN'T SEE THEM, GIVE ME AN ATTACK VECTOR.
HOBBIE, GIVE ME A VECTOR FOR HYPERSPACE, THEY CAN'T FOLLOW.
PIECE OF BANTHA DUNG. SIGHTS HAVEN'T BEEN CALIBRATED SINCE THE CLONE WARS.
JANSON, GIVE ME BETTER TARGETS!
LIMITED CHOICES AND EVASIVE IS PULLING US AWAY FROM THEM.
SURE, I'LL COMM THEM AND ASK THEM TO PARADE BY REAL SLOW.

GREAT SHOOTING, PLOURR!
MUSTA BEEN, I DIDN'T EVEN HIT THE TRIGGER.
HEY, CORSEC IS THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT.

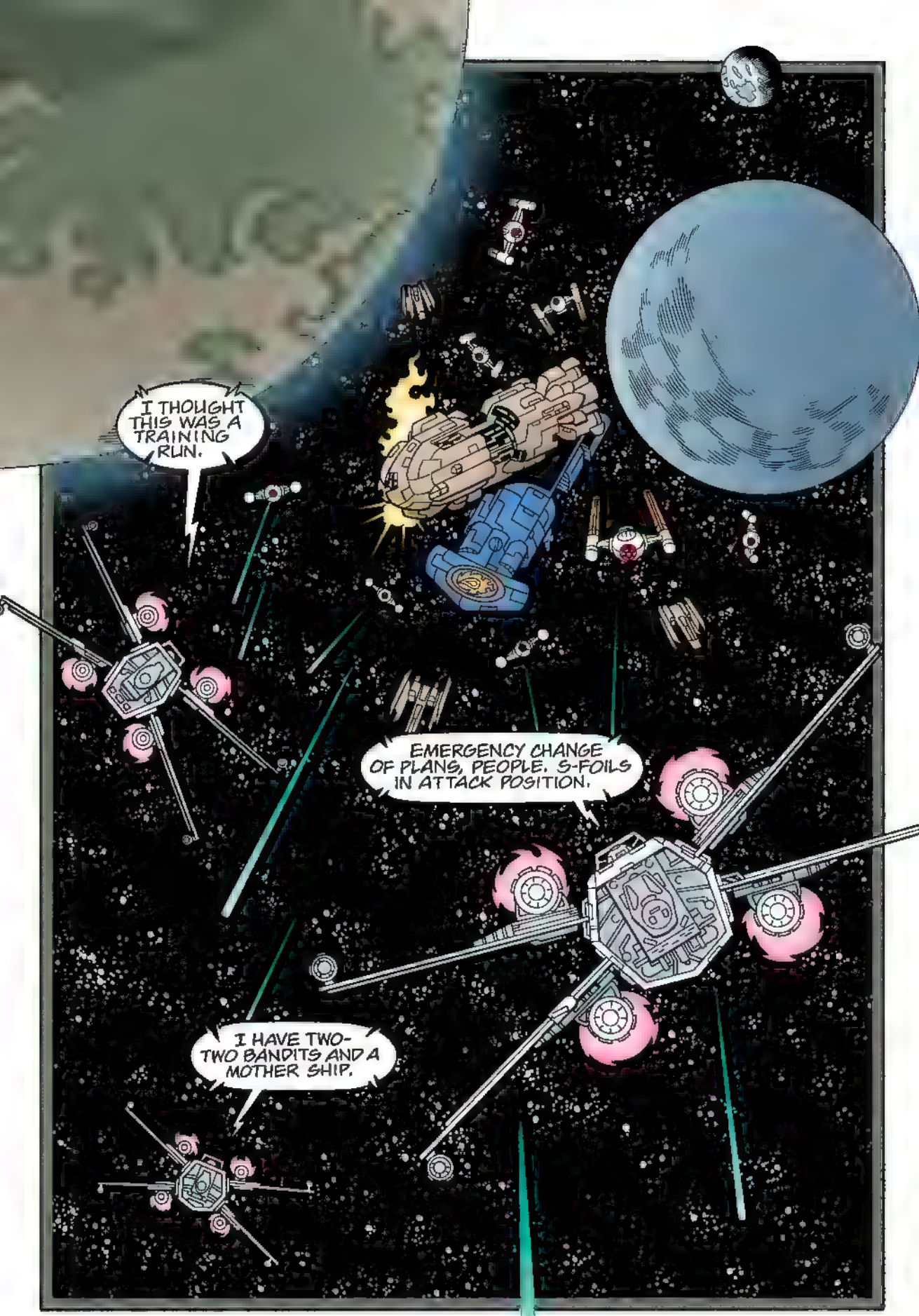

THREE ON ONE? HE'LL HAVE TO BE A HOT HAND TO TAKE THEM...
TWO ON ONE, NOW.
BEEP-BOOP!
I KNOW HE'S THERE, WHISTLER.
SQUAWK!
DO I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING? SHUNTING POWER TO REAR DEFLECTORS.
FINALLY! A TARGET.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE!

YOU'RE ON YOUR OUTBOUND VECTOR. HOPE YOU HAVE NO MORE PIRATE PROBLEMS.
I COPY. THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR PARTNER FOR EVERYTHING. WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE FELS.
CORRAN HORN A ROGUE?
HE'S A HOT PILOT. WE SHOULD RECRUIT HIM.
HE'S TOO STRAIGHT AND NARROW. NEVER HAPPEN. NOT IN MY LIFETIME.
REALLY. WHO NEEDS ANOTHER CORELLIAN IN THE UNIT. TWO IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
I DON'T KNOW. IF FEL CAN BE A ROGUE, MAYBE THAT HORN GUY HAS IT IN HIM. SOMEDAY, PERHAPS, WE'LL SEE.

Masquerade | illustration by John Nadeau

APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF ENDOR . . .

script by Michael A. Stackpole
pencils by Drew Johnson and Gary Hall
inks by Gary Martin
colors by David Nestelle
letters by Vickie Williams


I THOUGHT THIS WAS A TRAINING RUN.
EMERGENCY CHANGE OF PLANS, PEOPLE. S-FOILS IN ATTACK POSITION.
I HAVE TWO- TWO BANDITS AND A MOTHER SHIP.

JANSON, GET TWO-FLIGHT ON THAT PIRATE CRUISER, ONE AND THREE, MIX IT UP.

AS ORDERED, LEAD. ON ME, TWO-FLIGHT.

CAPTAIN WEDGE ANTILLES

DEREK "HOBBIE" KLIVAN

I HAVE A TIE WING ON ME AND CAN'T SHAKE HIM.

LOT OF METAL SCREENING THE CRUISER, WES.

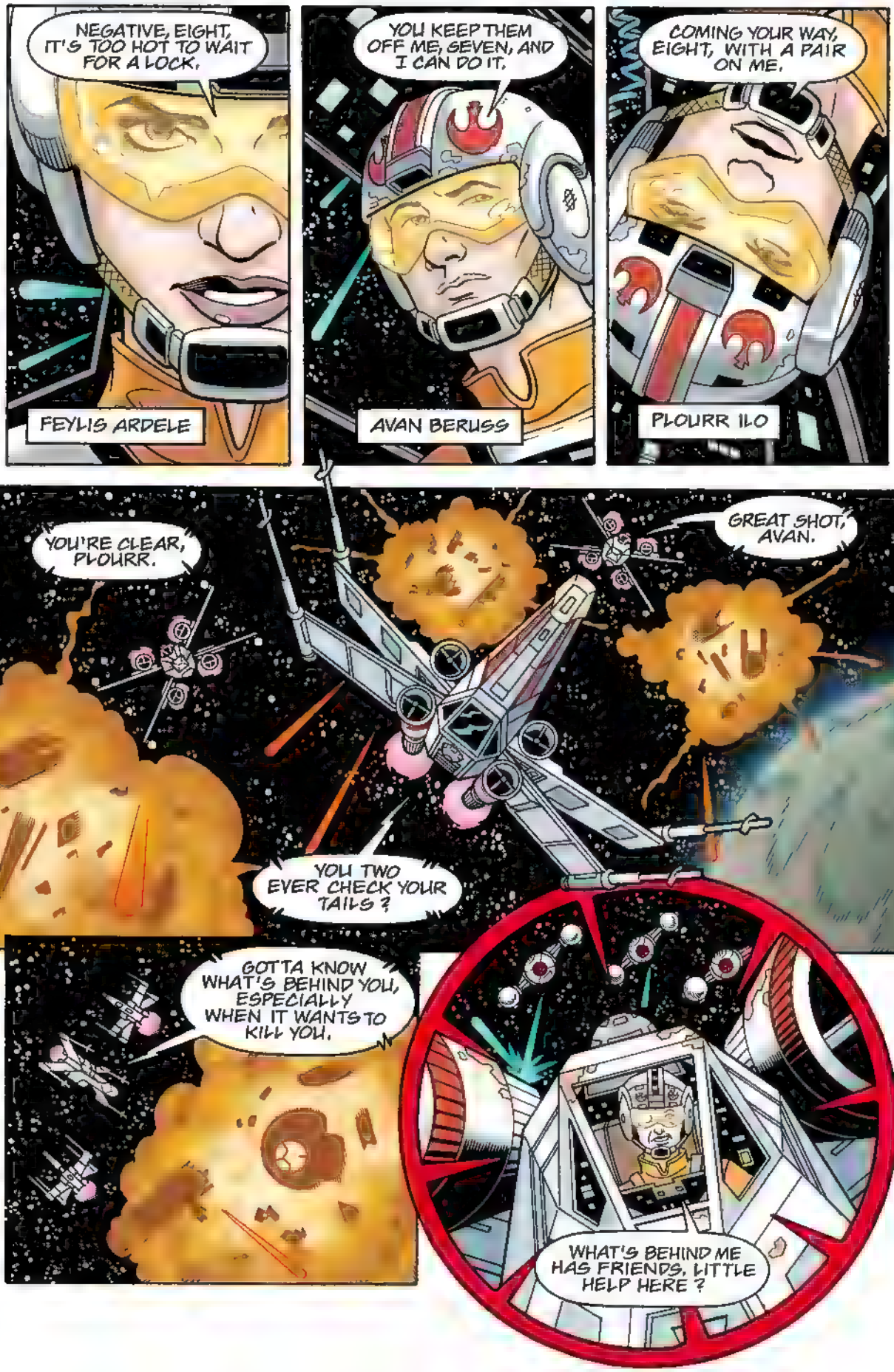
TIGHTEN IT UP, THREE-FLIGHT. WE'RE ONE DOWN ALREADY.

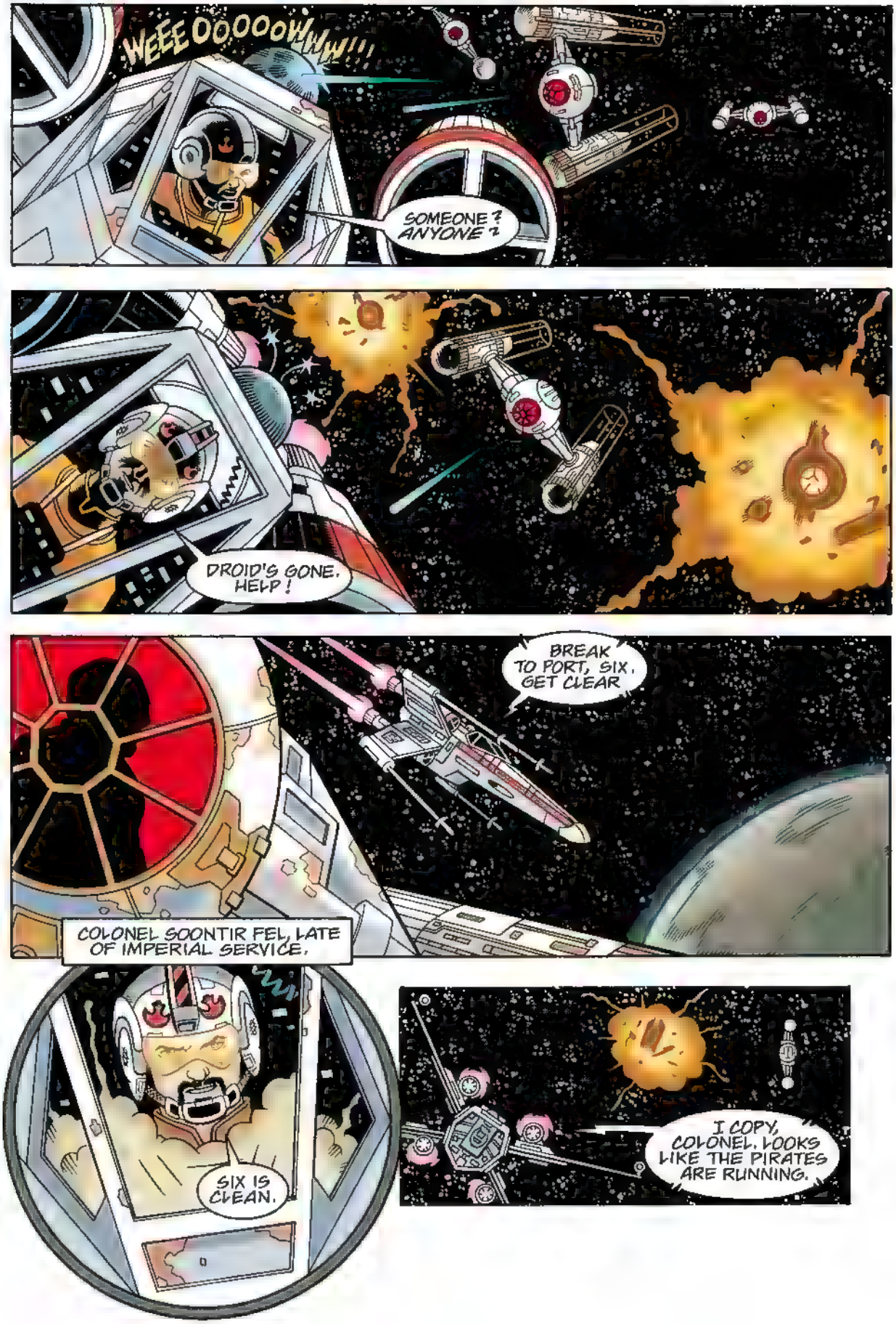
LIEUTENANT TYCHO CELCHU

HOBBIE, IF YOU CAN'T SHAKE A T-WING, YOU DESERVE TO BE VAPED.

WES JANSON

TAKING FIRE, LEAD.
NRIN NEEDS COVER.
ON IT. GOT HIM.
THANKS, TWO. BREAK TO PORT, NOW!
NRIN VAKIL
THERE, WE'RE EVEN, IBTISAM.
IN THIS FIGHT, YOU MEAN.
LEAD, CRUISER IS RAY SHIELDED REALLY HARD.
ANOTHER PASS AND WE TORP IT.


NEGATIVE, EIGHT, IT'S TOO HOT TO WAIT FOR A LOCK.
FEYLIS ARDELE
YOU KEEP THEM OFF ME, SEVEN, AND I CAN DO IT.
AVAN BERUSS
COMING YOUR WAY, EIGHT, WITH A PAIR ON ME.
PLOURR ILO
YOU'RE CLEAR, PLOURR.
GREAT SHOT, AVAN.
YOU TWO EVER CHECK YOUR TAILS?
GOTTA KNOW WHAT'S BEHIND YOU, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT WANTS TO KILL YOU.
WHAT'S BEHIND ME HAS FRIENDS, LITTLE HELP HERE?

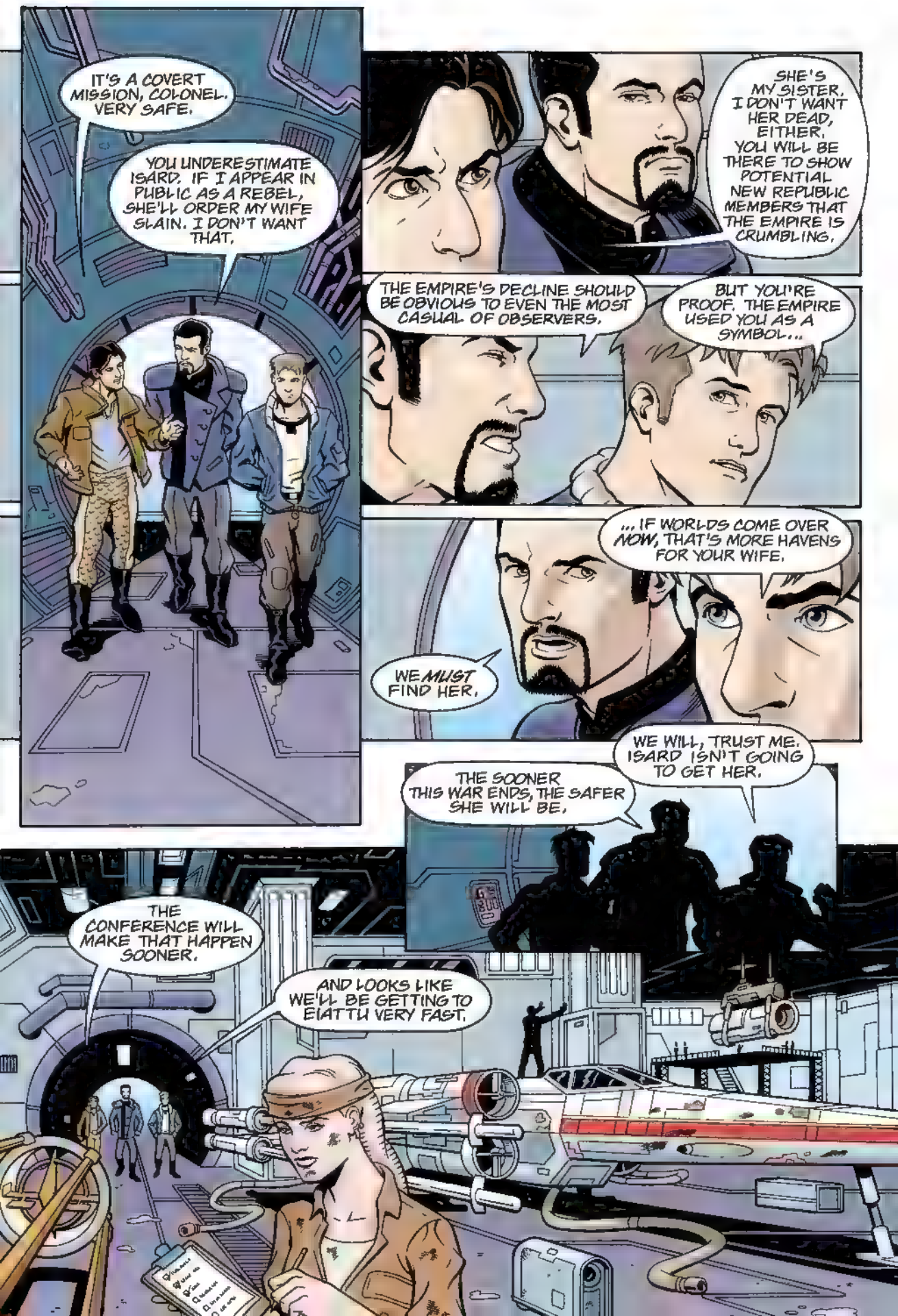

WEEEOOOOOWWWW!!!
SOMEONE? ANYONE?
DROID'S GONE. HELP!
BREAK TO PORT, SIX. GET CLEAR
COLONEL SOONTIR FEL, LATE OF IMPERIAL SERVICE.
SIX IS CLEAN.
I COPY, COLONEL. LOOKS LIKE THE PIRATES ARE RUNNING.

IBTISAM
EXIT VECTOR IS 234 BY 19 BY 159.
XARCEE HUWLA
VECTOR PUTS THEM AT SYSTEM EDGE TO REGROUP.
ARE WE CLEAR TO PURSUE?
NEGATIVE. WE HAVE RESCUE PERSONNEL INBOUND AND DON'T WANT TO LET THE PIRATES JUMP BACK HERE. WE'LL GET THEM ANOTHER DAY.
I COPY, ROGUE LEADER.

IMPERIAL CENTER
PESTAGE'S LOSS OF BRENTAAL HAS CRIPPLED HIS CREDIBILITY.
WARLORDS LIKE TERADOC AND HARSK CLAIM THEY CAN PROTECT OUR RICHER CITIZENS.
YOU LAMENT THE LOSS OF A FINANCIAL SUPPORTER, BUT I LOST MY HOME. WE MUST DO SOMETHING.
WE MUST MAKE OUR RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO OPPOSE PESTAGE, TO UNSEAT HIM.
DOWN WITH PESTAGE!
WORDS ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE TO SAVE THE EMPIRE.
HASTE AND TREASON SELDOM COMBINE WELL.
WE MUST ACT, NOT SOON BUT NOW!

I'VE KNOWN FOR YEARS THAT I WOULD HAVE TO RUN, AND MADE PLANS.
THE EIDOLON BASE ON TATOOINE WAS TO HAVE BEEN MY SANCTUARY, BUT JIRIN BANOLT FORCED ME TO KILL HIM...
...THEN THE REBELS DESTROYED MY HIDEAWAY.
I WOULD HAVE IMPERIAL INTELLIGENCE ARREST THESE FOOLS, BUT ISARD IS USING THEM TO GET TO ME. I KNOW IT.
THE EMPIRE CRUMBLES AND THE NEW REPUBLIC THRIVES. POWER FLOWS TO THEM, AND WITHOUT POWER, ONE DIES.
IT IS TIME, I THINK, TO SEE IF THE NEW REPUBLIC WANTS MY POWER, AND WHAT THEY WILL DO FOR ME TO GET IT.

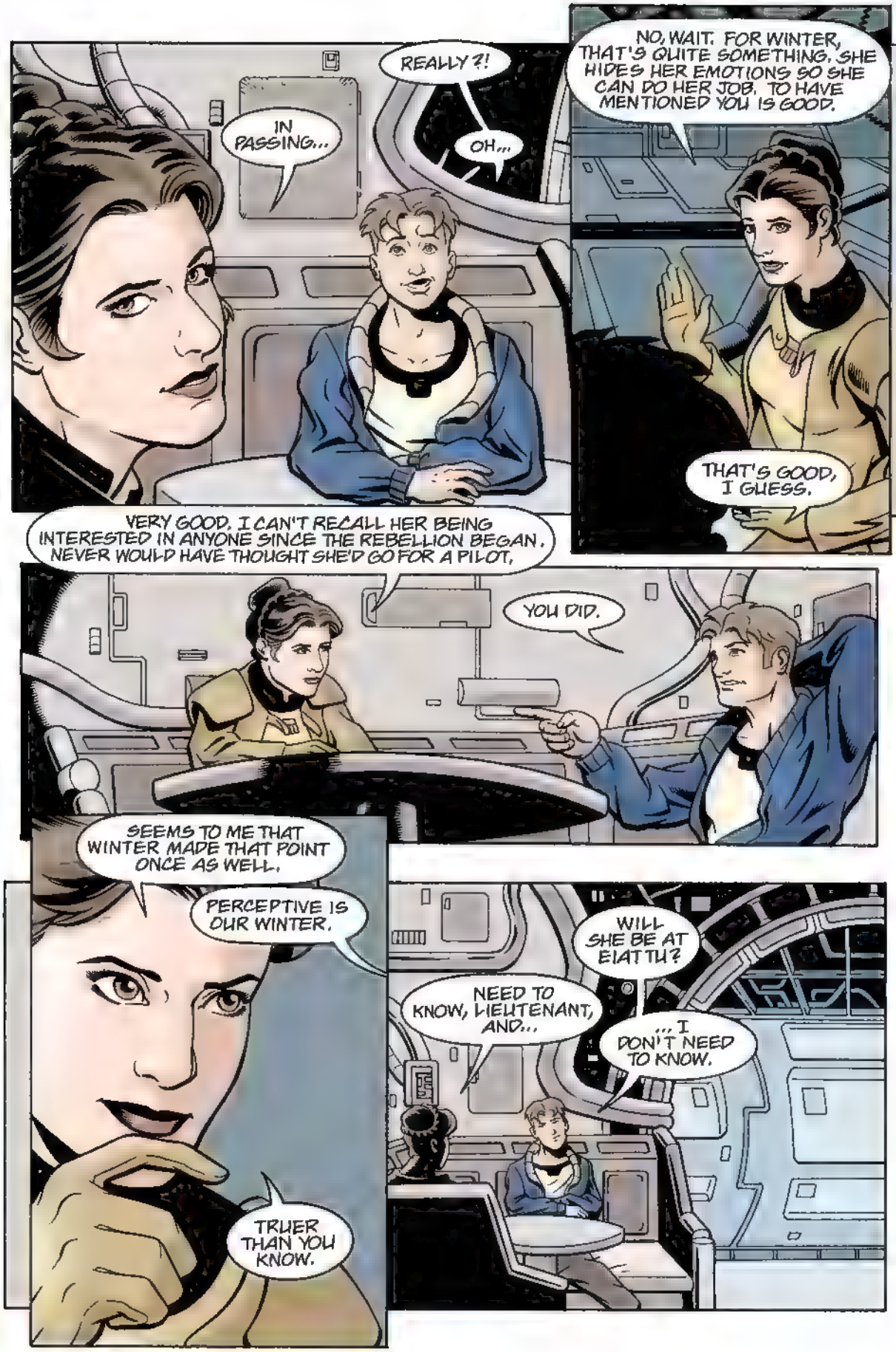
HOME ONE
I READ YOUR REPORT ON THE PIRATE RAID. GOOD WORK. FEL HAD THREE KILLS?
HE TOOK TO AN X-WING VERY QUICKLY. HE LIKES THAT IT HAS SHIELDS.
AN ADVANTAGE OVER A TIE INTERCEPTOR.
IT'S GOOD HE'S PROGRESSED FAST. WE HAVE A DIFFICULT MISSION THAT WILL CUT INTO HIS TRAINING TIME.
YOU'LL SPOIL THEM.
SOMETHING BETTER THAN RESCUING FREIGHTERS FROM PIRATES, I HOPE.
MY PILOTS ARE WORTH IT.
I MEANT THE FISH.
SORRY.
LT. CELCHU AND COLONEL FEL WILL BE ESCORTING PRINCESS LEIA TO A SUMMIT MEETING ON ELATTU.
DIFFICULT? YOU'LL SPOIL THEM. WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF US?
A TRUE ROGUE MISSION. I THINK, IN FACT, MOST OF YOU WILL SURVIVE.

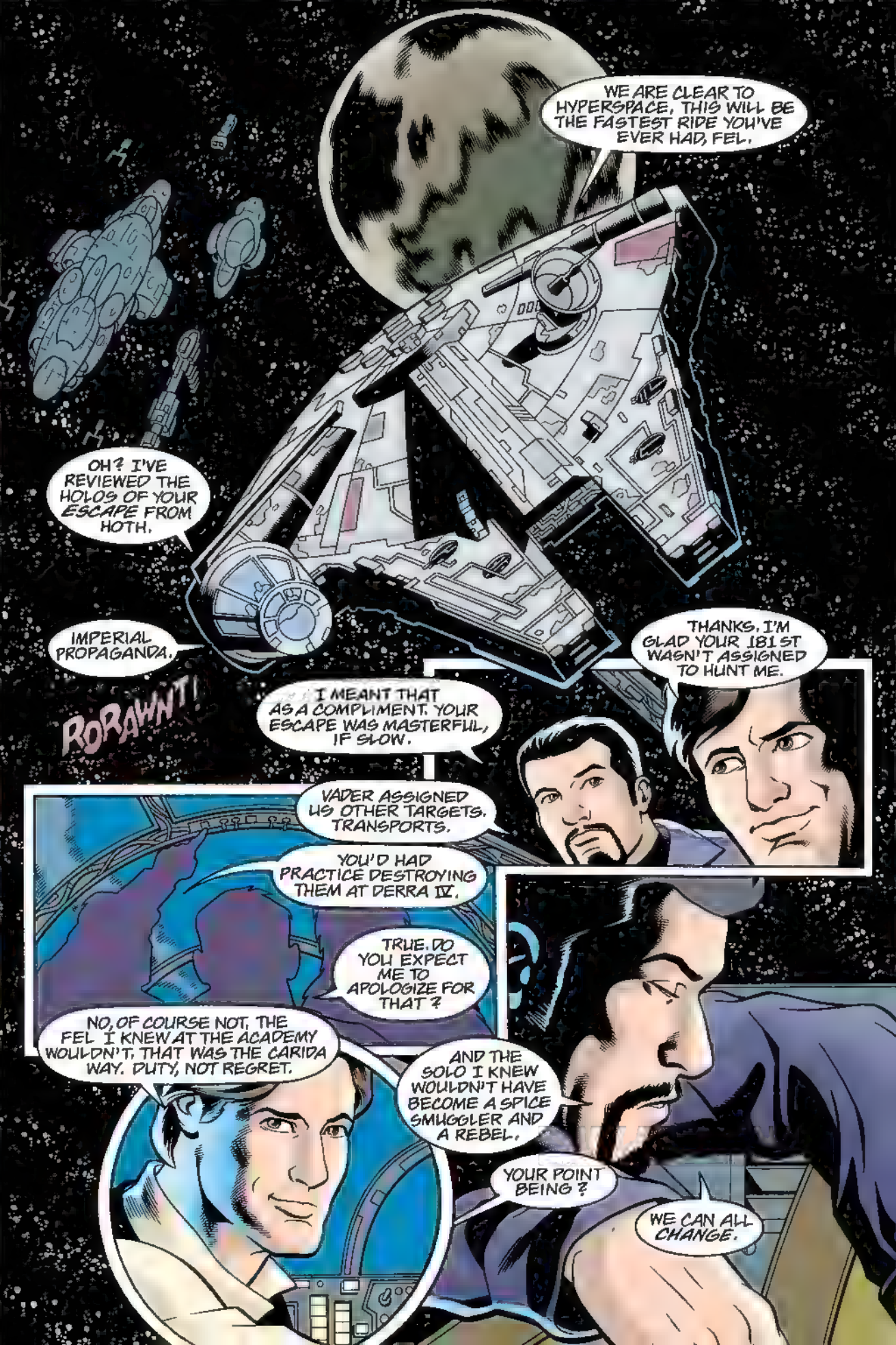

IT'S A COVERT MISSION, COLONEL. VERY SAFE.
YOU UNDERESTIMATE ISARD. IF I APPEAR IN PUBLIC AS A REBEL, SHE'LL ORDER MY WIFE SLAIN. I DON'T WANT THAT.
SHE'S MY SISTER. I DON'T WANT HER DEAD, EITHER. YOU WILL BE THERE TO SHOW POTENTIAL NEW REPUBLIC MEMBERS THAT THE EMPIRE IS CRUMBLING.
THE EMPIRE'S DECLINE SHOULD BE OBVIOUS TO EVEN THE MOST CASUAL OF OBSERVERS.
BUT YOU'RE PROOF. THE EMPIRE USED YOU AS A SYMBOL...
...IF WORLDS COME OVER NOW, THAT'S MORE HAVENS FOR YOUR WIFE.
WE MUST FIND HER.
WE WILL, TRUST ME. ISARD ISN'T GOING TO GET HER.
THE SOONER THIS WAR ENDS, THE SAFER SHE WILL BE.
THE CONFERENCE WILL MAKE THAT HAPPEN SOONER.
AND LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE GETTING TO EIATTU VERY FAST.

LEAVE NOW AND YOU COULD GET THERE BEFORE PLOURR, AND SHE HAD A GOOD HEAD START. GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, HAN, CHEWIE.
AND YOU, WEDGE. SORRY YOU'RE NOT JOINING US.
GRONWIK!
AH, THE INFAMOUS MILLENNIUM FALCON.
FASTER THAN THE EMPEROR'S RETRIBUTION.
DON'T JOKE ABOUT THAT.
YOU REMEMBER TYCHO.
YOUR SABACC PLAYING PAID MY DEBTS ON HOTH.
YES, SIR, BUT I'M WISER NOW, I DON'T PLAY.
AND THIS IS...
WE'VE MET, AT THE CARIDA ACADEMY.
BEEN A LONG TIME, SOONTIR. YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF.

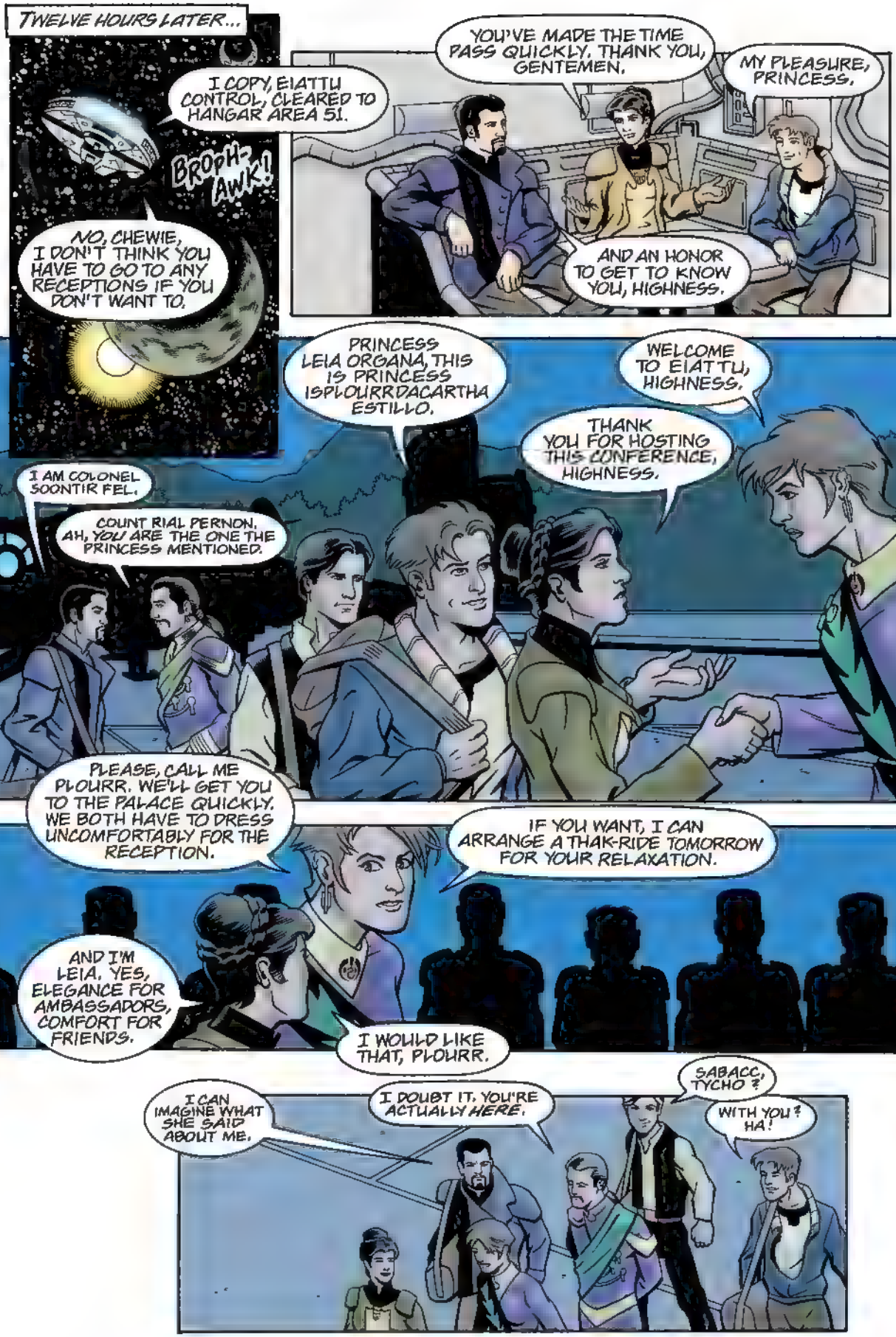
WELL, DUTY CALLS. TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOUR CARGO.
YOU, TOO, WEDGE. COME, GENTLEMEN, YOUR GEAR IS ALREADY ON BOARD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN *HE* WOULDN'T LET YOU PAINT DEATH STAR KILL MARKERS ON THE *FALCON*?
BRONRHAW!
WE'LL GET GOING ONCE I GET LAUNCH CLEARANCE. FIRST, THOUGH, INTRODUCTIONS.
THIS IS PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA.
TYCHO, IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. AND YOU MUST BE BARON FEL.
MY IMPERIAL TITLE IS LOST TO ME. COLONEL IS FINE, PRINCESS, BUT SOONTIR WOULD BE BETTER.
SOONTIR, THEN IT SHALL BE.
TIME TO GO, SOONTIR, WHY DON'T YOU COME UP TO THE COCKPIT. I CAN TEACH YOU SOME THINGS ABOUT FLYING.
ALWAYS A DREAMER, SOLO.
IF YOU WANT TO BE ALONE, PRINCESS...
LATER, SOONTIR. NO, TYCHO, STAY PLEASE.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAVE SEEN YOU, HIGHNESS...
IT WAS AT BAKURA, WASN'T IT?
YES, SINCE THEN THE ALLIANCE HAS KEPT ROGUE SQUADRON BUSY.
THE LAST TIME I *THOUGHT* I SAW YOU, IT WAS A WOMAN NAMED WINTER.
SHE'S AN OLD FRIEND.
THEN YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT HER.
I SUPPOSE I COULD. SHE'S BEEN AN AIDE TO MY FATHER AND ME FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE FOREVER.
"AS AN ALLIANCE AGENT, SHE'S ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH, FINDING SUPPLIES...
"SHE'S ALSO EDUCATED, WELL BRED AND VERY REFINED."
AND SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.
I COULD ALMOST SWEAR YOU'RE SMITTEN BY HER.
YOU COULD SAY THAT. IT'S MORE THAN A "WE'RE SURVIVORS OF ALDERAAN THING," FOR ME, ANYWAY.
I SEEM TO RECALL HER HAVING MENTIONED YOU.

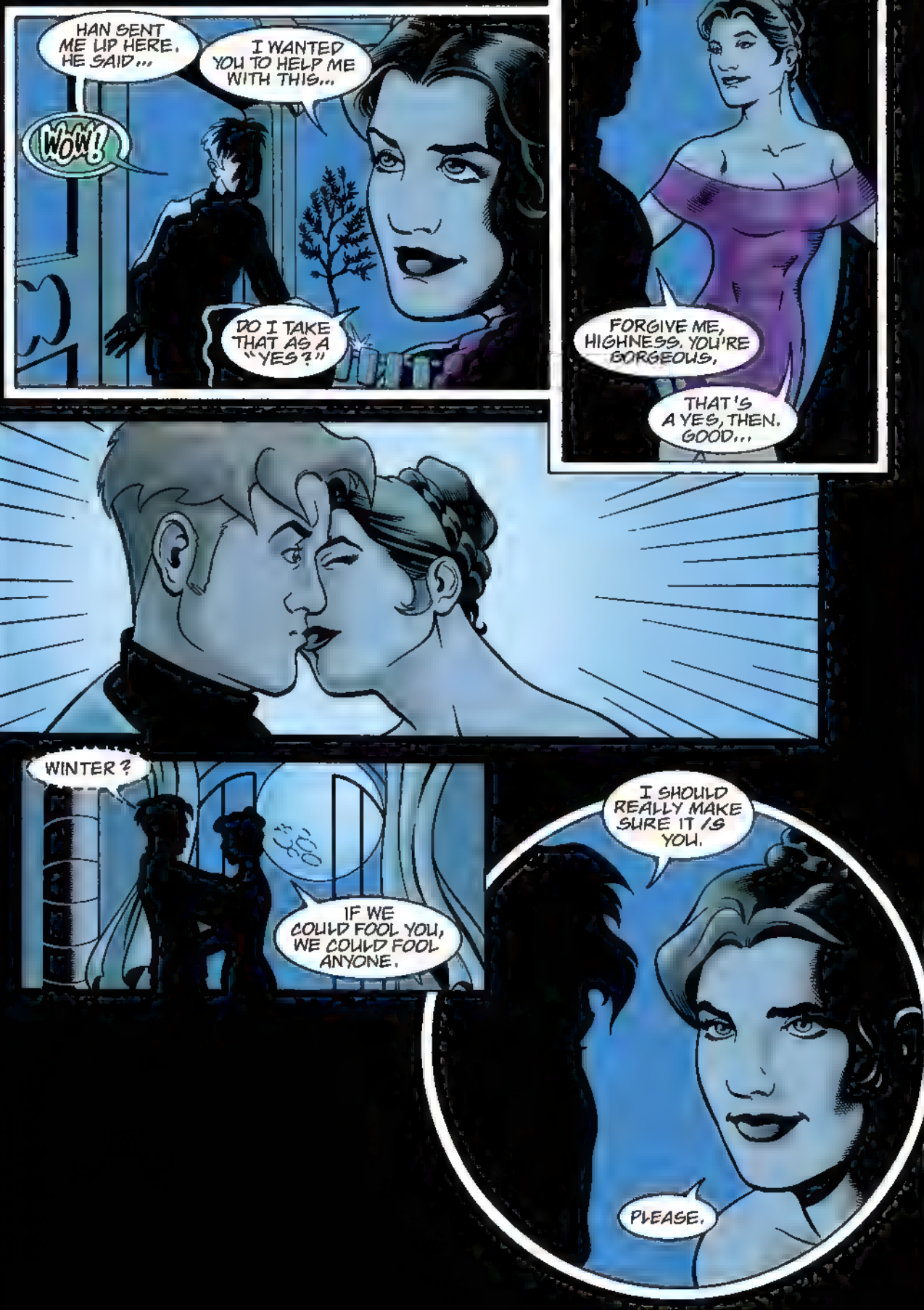

IN PASSING...
REALLY?!
OH...
NO, WAIT. FOR WINTER, THAT'S QUITE SOMETHING. SHE HIDES HER EMOTIONS SO SHE CAN DO HER JOB. TO HAVE MENTIONED YOU IS GOOD.
THAT'S GOOD, I GUESS.
VERY GOOD. I CAN'T RECALL HER BEING INTERESTED IN ANYONE SINCE THE REBELLION BEGAN. NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT SHE'D GO FOR A PILOT.
YOU DID.
SEEMS TO ME THAT WINTER MADE THAT POINT ONCE AS WELL.
PERCEPTIVE IS OUR WINTER.
TRUER THAN YOU KNOW.
WILL SHE BE AT EIATTU?
NEED TO KNOW, LIEUTENANT, AND...
...I DON'T NEED TO KNOW.


WE ARE CLEAR TO HYPERSPACE, THIS WILL BE THE FASTEST RIDE YOU'VE EVER HAD, FEL.
OH? I'VE REVIEWED THE HOLOS OF YOUR ESCAPE FROM HOTH.
IMPERIAL PROPAGANDA.
RORAWN'T!
I MEANT THAT AS A COMPLIMENT. YOUR ESCAPE WAS MASTERFUL, IF SLOW.
THANKS, I'M GLAD YOUR 181ST WASN'T ASSIGNED TO HUNT ME.
VADER ASSIGNED US OTHER TARGETS. TRANSPORTS.
YOU'D HAD PRACTICE DESTROYING THEM AT DERRA IV.
TRUE. DO YOU EXPECT ME TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT?
NO, OF COURSE NOT. THE FEL I KNEW AT THE ACADEMY WOULDN'T. THAT WAS THE CARIDA WAY. DUTY, NOT REGRET.
AND THE SOLO I KNEW WOULDN'T HAVE BECOME A SPICE SMUGGLER AND A REBEL.
YOUR POINT BEING?
WE CAN ALL CHANGE.

RAROOUN VARA!
CUTE, FURBALL, REAL CUTE. IT TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE, FEL.
YOU SOUGHT TO END THE MADNESS, I TRIED TO INSULATE CITIZENS FROM IT.
THE EMPEROR WAS EVIL, YOU WERE SMART ENOUGH TO SEE THAT, YOU FOUGHT TO CONTINUE HIS EVIL.
I FOUGHT TO MAINTAIN ORDER. I THOUGHT... I HOPED THINGS WOULD CHANGE. THEY DID, BUT NOT FOR THE BETTER.
THERE CAME A POINT WHEN THE TRUTH COULDN'T BE DENIED, SO I'M HERE. MY LIFE IS GONE, MY WIFE IN JEOPARDY, BUT I AM HERE.
IT'S A TOUGH CHOICE, BUT THE RIGHT ONE.
I HEAR YOU. WHEN I FIND MY WIFE, I MIGHT EVEN BELIEVE YOU.

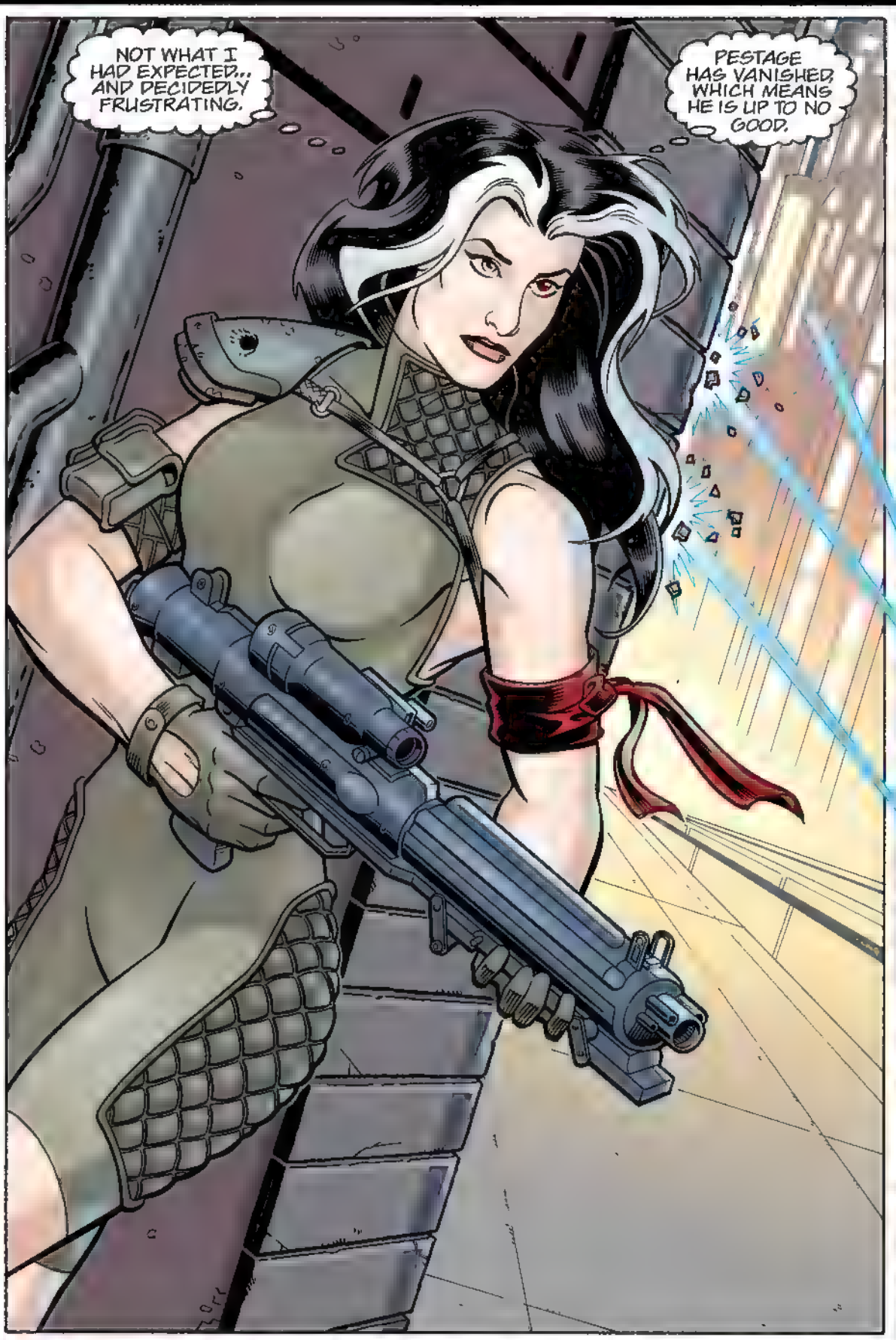

TWELVE HOURS LATER...
I COPY, EIATTU CONTROL, CLEARED TO HANGAR AREA 51.
BROPH-AWK!
NO, CHEWIE, I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE TO GO TO ANY RECEPTIONS IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
YOU'VE MADE THE TIME PASS QUICKLY. THANK YOU, GENTEMEN.
MY PLEASURE, PRINCESS.
AND AN HONOR TO GET TO KNOW YOU, HIGHNESS.
PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA, THIS IS PRINCESS ISPLOURRDACARTHA ESTILLO.
WELCOME TO EIATTU, HIGHNESS.
THANK YOU FOR HOSTING THIS CONFERENCE, HIGHNESS.
I AM COLONEL SOONTIR FEL.
COUNT RIAL PERNON. AH, YOU ARE THE ONE THE PRINCESS MENTIONED.
PLEASE, CALL ME PLOURR. WE'LL GET YOU TO THE PALACE QUICKLY. WE BOTH HAVE TO DRESS UNCOMFORTABLY FOR THE RECEPTION.
IF YOU WANT, I CAN ARRANGE A THAK-RIDE TOMORROW FOR YOUR RELAXATION.
AND I'M LEIA. YES, ELEGANCE FOR AMBASSADORS, COMFORT FOR FRIENDS.
I WOULD LIKE THAT, PLOURR.
I CAN IMAGINE WHAT SHE SAID ABOUT ME.
I DOUBT IT. YOU'RE ACTUALLY HERE.
SABACC, TYCHO?
WITH YOU? HA!

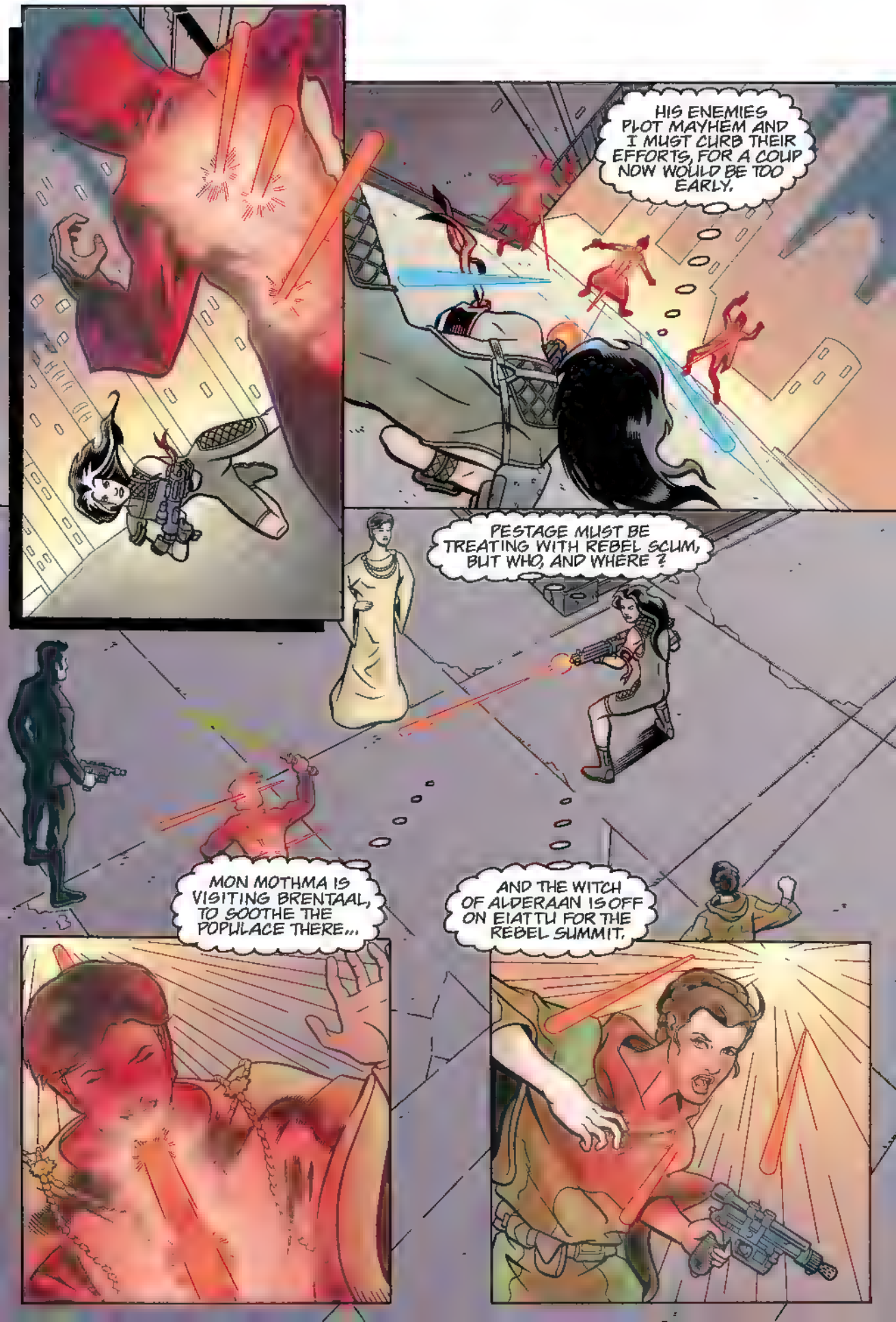
AN IMPERIAL NOBLE NOW A REBEL. WHAT DID THEY GIVE YOU TO INDUCE THIS CHANGE OF HEART?
THE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW MY HEART, COUNT LAABAN. IT IS MY WILL TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED.
YOU WOULD DENY THERE IS A NATURAL ORDER TO THINGS, COLONEL FEL?
YOU WOULD DENY THAT NATURE IS EVER CHANGING? REMEMBER, THAT WHICH DOES NOT ADAPT CAN ONLY DIE.
~ZNGGS!!!! LA7KN.
WELL, THE FLUX WILL DO THAT TO A SABACC HAND FROM TIME TO TIME.
'DROID SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO ME?
I DID, TYCHO. THANKS FOR THE CHAT, AH, COUNCILLOR.
FRIEND OF YOURS?
FLUX-FIEND LOOKING FOR A GAME.
TALKING TO YOU? MUST HAVE BEEN DESPERATE.
LONG WALK BACK TO THE SQUADRON, KID.
RIGHT. WHAT DID YOU NEED?
NOT ME, LEIA. SHE WANTED TO SEE YOU BEFORE COMING DOWN. SOME ALDERAANIAN THING, I GUESS.

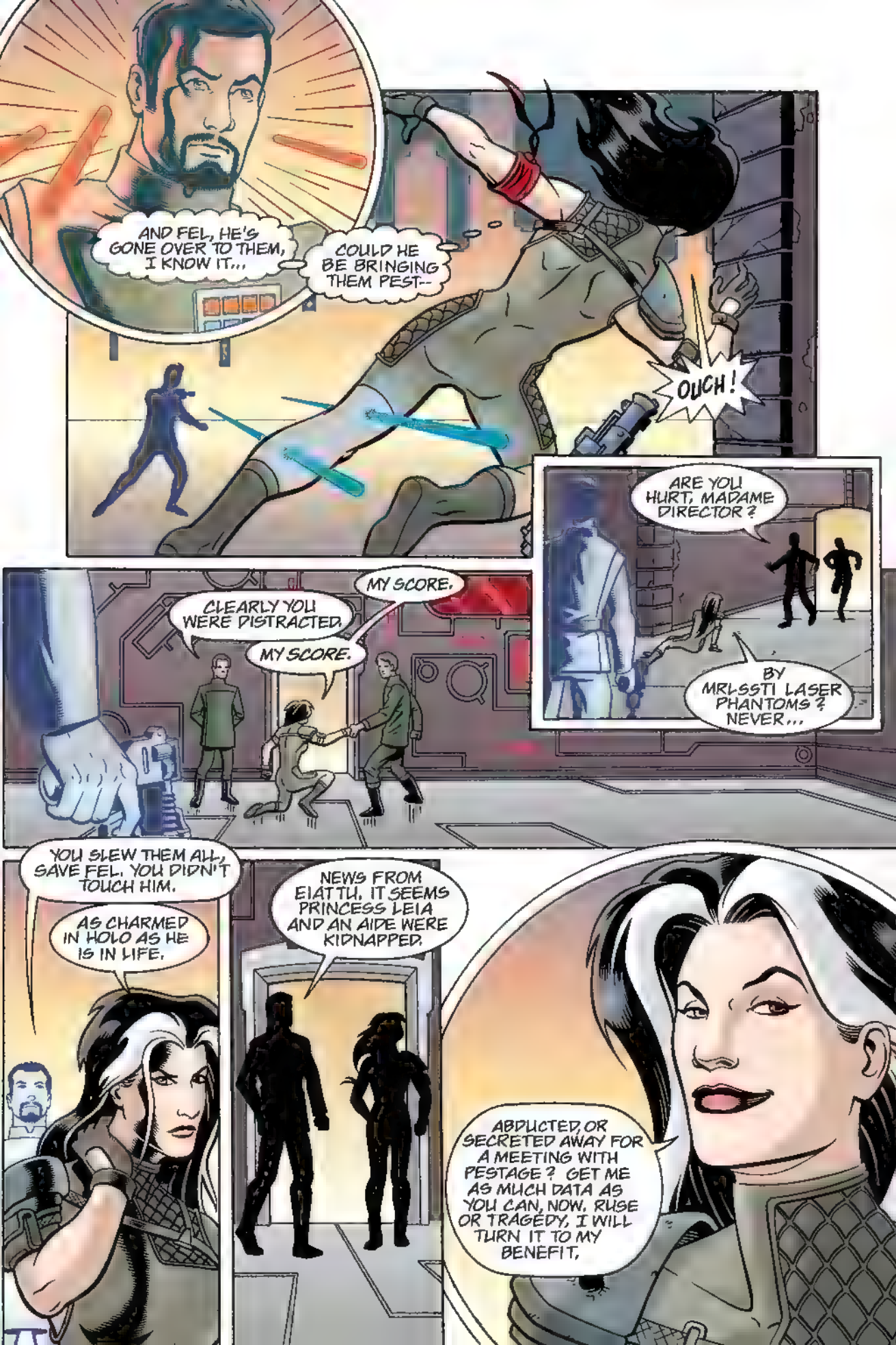

HAN SENT ME UP HERE. HE SAID...
I WANTED YOU TO HELP ME WITH THIS...
WOW!
DO I TAKE THAT AS A "YES?"
FORGIVE ME, HIGHNESS. YOU'RE GORGEOUS.
THAT'S A YES, THEN. GOOD...
WINTER?
IF WE COULD FOOL YOU, WE COULD FOOL ANYONE.
I SHOULD REALLY MAKE SURE IT IS YOU.
PLEASE.

CLICK!
UGNNH!
ARRGGHH!
BZATI
THEY'RE OUT. DO WE TAKE HIM, TOO?
YOU SAW THEM. WE CAN USE HIM AGAINST HER. HE GOES.
PASSAGE DOOR IS SECURE.
GOOD. WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MISTAKES. THEY'LL GET US DEAD.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M HEARING THIS FROM YOU...
YOU CORELLIANS DON'T MIND RISKING YOUR OWN LIVES, BUT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS IN THE LEAD...
IT'S NOT THAT. I DON'T MIND RISKING MY LIFE, BUT I ONLY GO IN IF THERE'S A CHANCE I CAN SURVIVE.
OH, LIKE THIS IS THE DEATH STAR.
EVEN IN AN X-WING I'D BE FEELING UNEASY RIGHT NOW.
WELL, IF SUCCESSFUL, THIS MISSION COULD BE AS IMPORTANT AS DESTROYING THE DEATH STARS. I'M GOING IN.
THEN I'VE GOT YOUR WING. LEAD ON, PRINCESS, AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH US.


NOT WHAT I HAD EXPECTED... AND DECIDEDLY FRUSTRATING.
PESTAGE HAS VANISHED, WHICH MEANS HE IS UP TO NO GOOD.

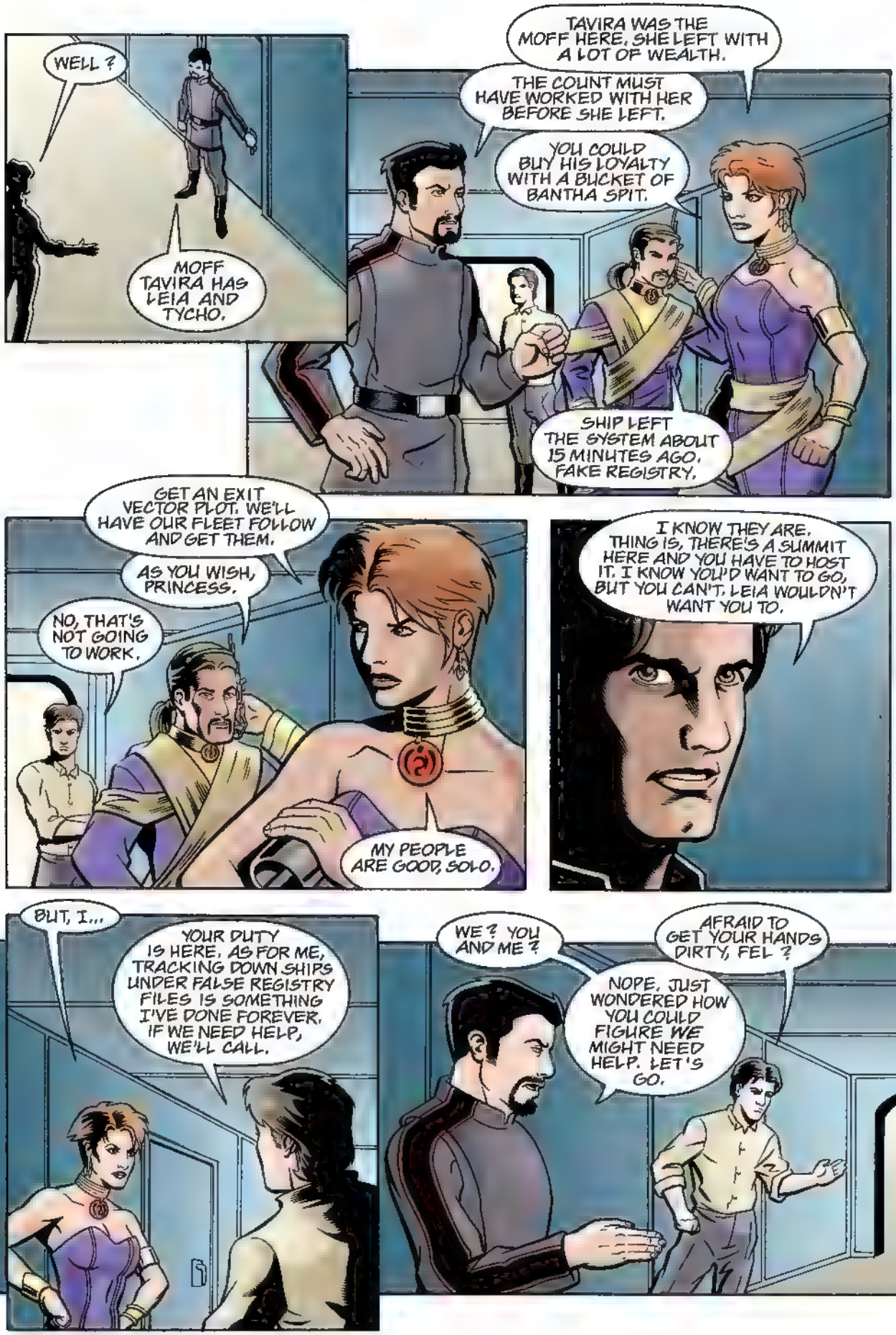

HIS ENEMIES PLOT MAYHEM AND I MUST CURB THEIR EFFORTS, FOR A COUP NOW WOULD BE TOO EARLY.
PESTAGE MUST BE TREATING WITH REBEL SCUM, BUT WHO, AND WHERE ?
MON MOTHMA IS VISITING BRENTAAL, TO SOOTHE THE POPULACE THERE...
AND THE WITCH OF ALDERAAN IS OFF ON EIATTU FOR THE REBEL SUMMIT.


AND FEL, HE'S GONE OVER TO THEM, I KNOW IT...
COULD HE BE BRINGING THEM PEST--
OUCH!
ARE YOU HURT, MADAME DIRECTOR?
BY MRLSSTI LASER PHANTOMS? NEVER...
CLEARLY YOU WERE DISTRACTED.
MY SCORE.
MY SCORE.
YOU SLEW THEM ALL, SAVE FEL. YOU DIDN'T TOUCH HIM.
AS CHARMED IN HOLO AS HE IS IN LIFE.
NEWS FROM EIATTU. IT SEEMS PRINCESS LEIA AND AN AIDE WERE KIDNAPPED.
ABDUCTED OR SECRETED AWAY FOR A MEETING WITH PESTAGE? GET ME AS MUCH DATA AS YOU CAN, NOW. RUSE OR TRAGEDY, I WILL TURN IT TO MY BENEFIT.

KIDNAPPED FROM HERE? I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SECURE.
THE PRESENCE OF THE PASSAGE IS NOT A SURPRISE?
THE PALACE IS RIDDLED WITH SUCH PASSAGES.
RIGHT, PASSAGES THAT SAVED MY LIFE.
PASSAGES THAT WILL RUIN MINE.
HOW WIDESPREAD IS KNOWLEDGE OF THESE PASSAGES?
THE NOBILITY KNOWS OF THEM, AND SOME MAY HAVE BEEN IN THEM. I DOUBT ANYONE ELSE KNOWS OF THEM.
ONE OF THE NOBLES?
WE WERE BETRAYED.
OUR LOYAL OPPOSITION, I THINK. GUARDS...
"FETCH ME COUNT LAABANN."
COME WITH US, PEACEFULLY...
WHAT?!!

"THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!"
SO IS TREASON. YOUR ONE CHANCE TO LIVE IS TO EXPLAIN WHAT YOU KNOW OF THE KIDNAPPING.
HA! THE NOBILITY IS EXEMPT FROM CAPITAL SENTENCES.
I'LL KILL YOU MYSELF, LAABANN.
THAT WOULD BE MURDER.
I BET I COULD GET A PARDON.
RIAL, GET ME A DATAPAD AND CAPTAIN SOLO A BLASTER.
I'D PREFER A VIBROBLADE.
FINE. AND WE'LL NEED PLASTIC TO PROTECT THE CARPET.
YOU'RE BLUFFING.
HUM ZZZ HUM
CHARGE IS LOW. IT WON'T CUT CLEANLY.
JUST MEANS I'LL HAVE TO WORK SLOWER.
I'LL TELL YOU NOTHING.
YOU'LL TALK. I'LL SAVE YOUR TONGUE FOR LAST.
HE'S RIGHT, HE WON'T SPEAK. IMPERIAL AGENTS ARE TRAINED TO RESIST EVEN THE MOST PAINFUL TORTURE.
YES, YES, TRAINED!
SILENCE, WORM!
HUM ZZZ HUM
BUT HE KNOWS..
LEAVE ME ALONE WITH HIM AND I WILL KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.
TRUST ME, LEAVE, PLEASE, AND TAKE THAT THING WITH YOU.

THANK YOU, BUT I WILL TELL YOU NOTHING.
THAT MAKES YOU EVEN MORE OF A FOOL THAN I THOUGHT BEFORE. I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU AN AT3 DIRECTIVE.
THAT'S AN IMPERIAL CODE...
USED BY AGENTS TO COMPEL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENTS, YES. YOUR INTERFERENCE HERE IS RUINING MY MISSION.
YOUR MISSION ?
YOU EXPRESSED DOUBT AT MY COMING OVER, YOU KNOW MY DEFECTION THREATENS MY FAMILY. THIS IS A CHARADE.
I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T THINK...
NO, YOU DID NOT. WHO DID YOU TELL ABOUT LEIA ?
I SOLD THE INFORMATION TO MOFF TAVIRA.
WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?
DON'T KNOW. AWAY, I WOULD IMAGINE.
I'LL HAVE TO FIND THEM, THEN.
AND LEAVE ME HERE ?
YOU'VE COMMITTED TREASON. FACE YOUR PUNISHMENT LIKE A MAN.
HELP ME OR I'LL INFORM ON YOU.
YOU THINK THEY'LL BELIEVE YOU ? PLEAD INSANITY. IT'LL BE BELIEVED.

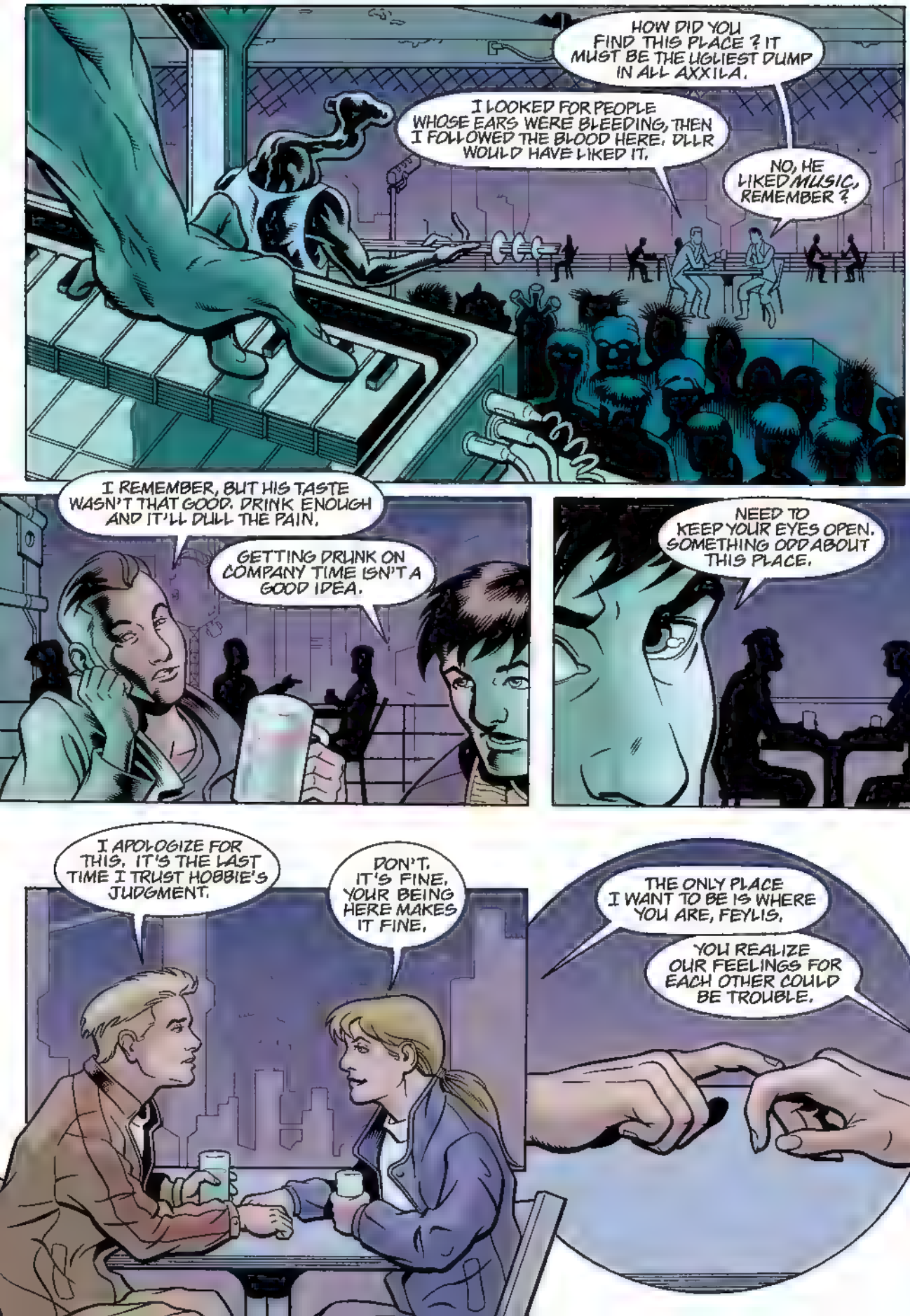

WELL ?
MOFF TAVIRA HAS LEIA AND TYCHO.
TAVIRA WAS THE MOFF HERE. SHE LEFT WITH A LOT OF WEALTH.
THE COUNT MUST HAVE WORKED WITH HER BEFORE SHE LEFT.
YOU COULD BUY HIS LOYALTY WITH A BUCKET OF BANTHA SPIT.
SHIP LEFT THE SYSTEM ABOUT 15 MINUTES AGO. FAKE REGISTRY.
GET AN EXIT VECTOR PLOT. WE'LL HAVE OUR FLEET FOLLOW AND GET THEM.
AS YOU WISH, PRINCESS.
NO, THAT'S NOT GOING TO WORK.
MY PEOPLE ARE GOOD, SOLO.
I KNOW THEY ARE. THING IS, THERE'S A SUMMIT HERE AND YOU HAVE TO HOST IT. I KNOW YOU'D WANT TO GO, BUT YOU CAN'T. LEIA WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO.
BUT, I...
YOUR DUTY IS HERE. AS FOR ME, TRACKING DOWN SHIPS UNDER FALSE REGISTRY FILES IS SOMETHING I'VE DONE FOREVER. IF WE NEED HELP, WE'LL CALL.
WE ? YOU AND ME ?
AFRAID TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY, FEL ?
NOPE. JUST WONDERED HOW YOU COULD FIGURE WE MIGHT NEED HELP. LET'S GO.

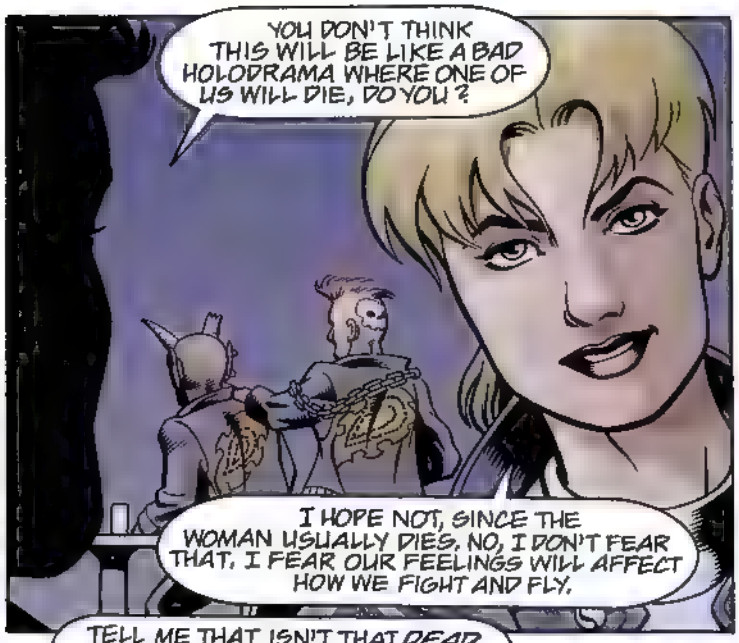
I WOULD APOLOGIZE FOR THE MEANS USED TO GET YOU HERE, BUT YOU'D NEVER ACCEPT IT, AND I NEVER APOLOGIZE.
YOUR CREW SHARES YOUR LACK OF MANNERS. THEY BEAT MY AIDE.
CELCHU HAD IT COMING TO HIM. HIS ACTIONS COST ME EIATTU.
BECAUSE OF HIM, I AM REDUCED TO WORKING WITH A PRIVATEER THAT THINKS SERVING THE EMPIRE IS SOMEHOW SOCIALLY ELEVATING.
AND YOU DON'T?

NO, PRINCESS, I DO NOT. I AM PRAGMATIC, KAVIL IS A FOOL. WITH THE NEW REPUBLIC'S HELP, I COULD SUPPLANT HIM.
YOU, JOIN THE NEW REPUBLIC?
THEY MUST HAVE HIT YOU HARDER THAN REPORTED, CELCHU.
I WOULD TAKE KAVIL'S FLEET AND MAKE MYSELF A WARLORD. TERADOC DID IT, AND THAT IDIOT, HARSK. A WOMAN WOULD GET IT RIGHT.
BUT THEY DID NOT HAVE OUR HELP TO DO IT.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
GOOD, 'CAUSE YOU WON'T GET IT.
I THINK WE COULD WORK OUT SOME SORT OF ACCOMMODATION, IF WE WEREN'T PRISONERS.
YOU THOUGHT I WAS NEGOTIATING WITH YOU?
YOU WEREN'T?
WHY LOWER MYSELF? I'VE TOLD YOU WHAT I WILL TELL MON MOTHMA. NEW REPUBLIC SUPPORT WILL BE YOUR RANSOM, AND I WILL HAVE IT SOON OR I'LL BE SENDING YOU TWO ALDERAANIANS HOME FOR A LONG, COLD VACATION.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D GO INTO AN IMPERIAL FACILITY UNARMED.
UNARMED? YOU'VE GOT YOUR TRENCHANT WIT.
THEY'RE CLEAN.
I'D RATHER HAVE A SQUADRON BACKING ME UP.
IF WISHES WERE BANTHAS, WE'D BE RIDING ON CORUSCANT ALREADY.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
GREETINGS, PRINCESS. YOU HAVE AGED WELL DESPITE YOUR HARDSHIPS.
AND YOU'RE ACTUALLY ALIVE, PESTAGE, WHICH IS RATHER RARE AMONG THE EMPEROR'S HENCHMEN.
ALIVE IS SOMETHING I WISH TO STAY, WHICH IS WHY I AM HERE. I WILL MAKE YOU A SPLENDID DEAL TO KEEP ME ALIVE.
COULD BE A TALL ORDER, BUT WE'LL MANAGE IT. WE COULD HAVE DONE THIS ON CORUSCANT.
YOU WOULD HAVE LIKED THAT, YOU'D HAVE BROUGHT A FLEET WITH YOU, TOO, WOULDN'T YOU?
CORUSCANT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER THAN THIS. HOW'D YOU FIND THIS PLACE?

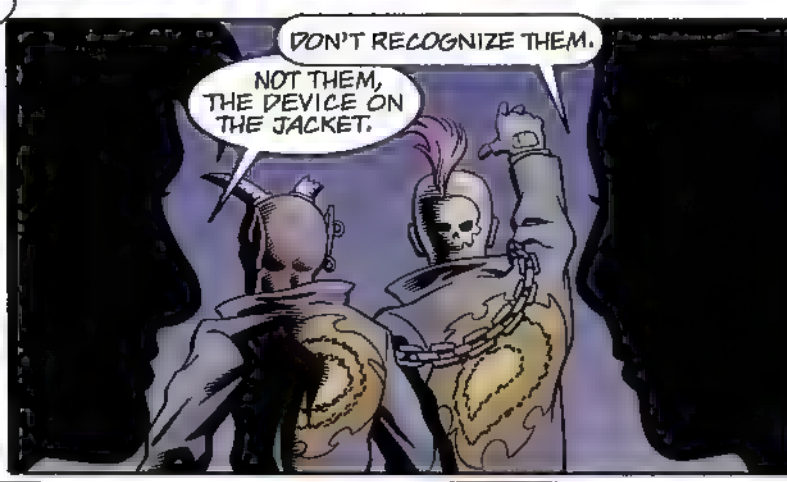
IT'S AMAZING WHAT DATA LIES BURIED IN IMPERIAL SURVEYS. I LIKE IT NO MORE THAN YOU DO, BUT ISARD COULD NEVER IMAGINE MY BEING HERE.
FOR THAT REASON, WE ARE HERE.
IN RETURN FOR MY LIFE AND CERTAIN OTHER CONCESSIONS, I SHALL LEAVE IMPERIAL CENTER AS UNDEFENDED AS CAAMAS FOR YOU.
EXCUSE ME, WHAT ?!!
I'LL WANT A FEW WORLDS FOR MY OWN. SOME HOLDINGS FOR LOYAL AIDES.
BUT I WILL GIVE YOU THE EMPIRE'S HEART IF YOU WILL PROVIDE ME ASYLUM AND MEMBERSHIP IN YOUR NEW REPUBLIC.
I EXPECTED AN OFFER OF NEGOTIATION, BUT CAPITULATION?
I AM A REALIST AND YSANNE ISARD IS A VIPER.
HARBOR NO ILLUSIONS, SHE WILL MAKE ANY EXCHANGE DIFFICULT. IF I REMAIN, I AM DOOMED. I OFFER YOU MY LIFE AND THE FULFILLMENT OF YOUR DREAMS.
SOUNDS LIKE A DEAL TO ME.
IF WE CAN MAKE THE DETAILS WORK, IT SHOULD BE.
GOOD. PERHAPS THEN, THIS EVENING, I'LL FINALLY SLEEP SOUNDLY.


HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE ? IT MUST BE THE UGLIEST DUMP IN ALL AXXILA.
I LOOKED FOR PEOPLE WHOSE EARS WERE BLEEDING, THEN I FOLLOWED THE BLOOD HERE. DLLR WOULD HAVE LIKED IT.
NO, HE LIKED MUSIC, REMEMBER ?
I REMEMBER, BUT HIS TASTE WASN'T THAT GOOD. DRINK ENOUGH AND IT'LL DULL THE PAIN.
GETTING DRUNK ON COMPANY TIME ISN'T A GOOD IDEA.
NEED TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS PLACE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS. IT'S THE LAST TIME I TRUST HOBBIE'S JUDGMENT.
DON'T. IT'S FINE. YOUR BEING HERE MAKES IT FINE.
THE ONLY PLACE I WANT TO BE IS WHERE YOU ARE, FEYLIS.
YOU REALIZE OUR FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER COULD BE TROUBLE.


YOU DON'T THINK THIS WILL BE LIKE A BAD HOLODRAMA WHERE ONE OF US WILL DIE, DO YOU?
I HOPE NOT, SINCE THE WOMAN USUALLY DIES. NO, I DON'T FEAR THAT. I FEAR OUR FEELINGS WILL AFFECT HOW WE FIGHT AND FLY.

WHEN YOU WANTED TO MAKE THE TORP RUN ON THE CRUISER, I WAS AFRAID I COULDN'T COVER YOU WELL ENOUGH, I...
YOU ORDERED ME TO ABORT. YOU WERE RIGHT. WE WORK WELL TOGETHER, FEYLIS, AND I WANT A LONG PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU.

TELL ME THAT ISN'T THAT *DEAD REBELS* TUNE, "DEATH STAR DIVA."
HUH? WHAT? FORGET THAT, LOOK AT THE BIG GUY THERE, AND THE DEVARONIAN WITH HIM.


DON'T RECOGNIZE THEM.
NOT THEM, THE DEVICE ON THE JACKET.

NOW *THAT*, I RECOGNIZE. THEY'RE LEAVING.
SO ARE WE.

COME ON, KIDS, TIME TO EARN YOUR FLIGHT PAY.
IF IT'S WHAT I FEAR, WE COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE HERE.

CHEWIE, TRIM UP THAT PORT STABILIZER PANEL.
GRONK AWAR!
SO YOU CAN FIX IT AT OUR NEXT STOP.
FASCINATING TO SEE YOU IN YOUR OWN ELEMENT LIKE THIS, SOLO.
PURSUING A SHIP IS MY ELEMENT?
I WAS THINKING MORE OF YOUR BEING OFF TO THE RESCUE.
GNORT!
ACTUALLY, SOLO, I ALWAYS SAW YOU THAT WAY. THAT'S WHY YOUR DEPARTURE FROM THE SERVICE SURPRISED ME. EVEN MORE, YOUR JOINING THE REBELLION SURPRISED ME.
CUTE, FURBALL. WANNA FIX THE STABILIZER RIGHT NOW?
NEVER SAW ME AS THE HEROIC TYPE, FEL?
WELL, ONCE AN OUTLAW...
TOO GLIB, HAN. A SCOFFLAW I ACCEPTED EASILY. YOU DEFIED AUTHORITY ON YOUR OWN TERMS AS A SMUGGLER. JOINING THE REBELLION, THOUGH, THAT WAS DIFFERENT. HOW DID YOU GO OVER?
A KID AND AN OLD MAN WANTED A RIDE TO ALDERAAN, THEN EVERYTHING CASCADED. I COULDN'T GET AWAY.
SOMETIMES I WONDER THAT MYSELF.

AND YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GET AWAY. THE REBELLION BECAME SOMETHING BIGGER THAN YOU. IT SWEPT YOU ALONG.
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT.
I ONCE BELONGED TO THE EMPIRE, THEN WAS REJECTED. THE REBELLION WANTED ME. NEEDED ME. I'D FOUND A HOME.
I FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT THE EMPIRE ONCE. DIFFERENT COURSES, SAME DESTINATION.
BLZZT!
COMING OUT OF HYPERSPACE. WELCOME TO STARFORGE STATION.
AND YOU THINK THE SHIP THAT RAN FROM EIATTU WILL BE HERE?
SURE.
ARARROR!
QUESTION I HAVE FOR YOU IS THIS: HOW DID YOU GET LAABANN TO GIVE UP THE TAVIRA CONNECTION?
I TOLD HIM WHAT HE WANTED TO HEAR.
DON'T RECALL YOU BEING THAT PERSUASIVE AT THE ACADEMY, FEL.
I DON'T SEEM TO RECALL YOU EVER LISTENING AT THE ACADEMY, SOLO.
ROOKAO!

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE FINALLY GOING TO GROUND.

I COPY. BACK TRAIL IS CLEAR.

AND WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

SITHSPAWN!

EMPEROR'S BLACK BONES!

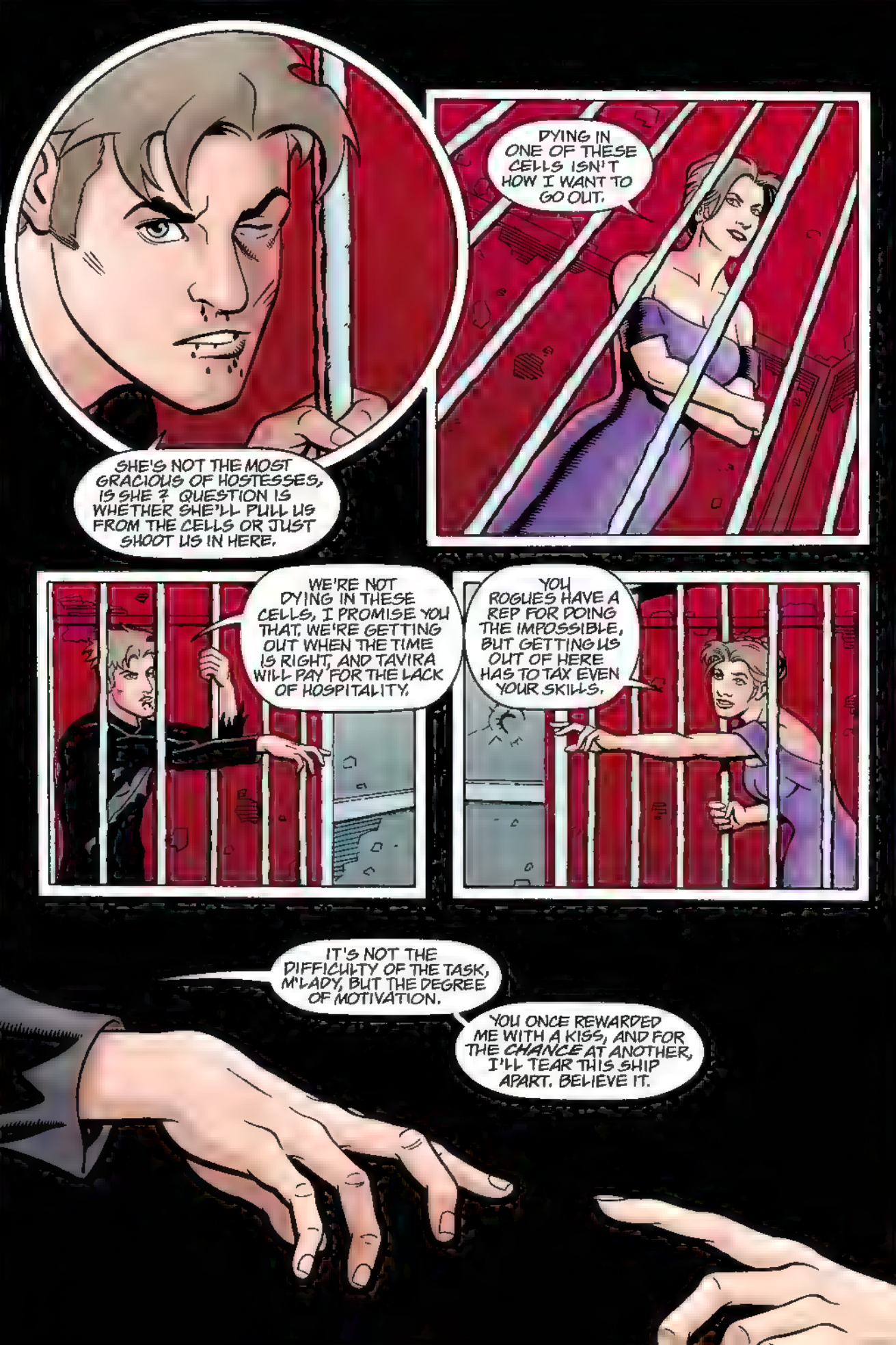
SEE, WE WUZ FOLLOWED.

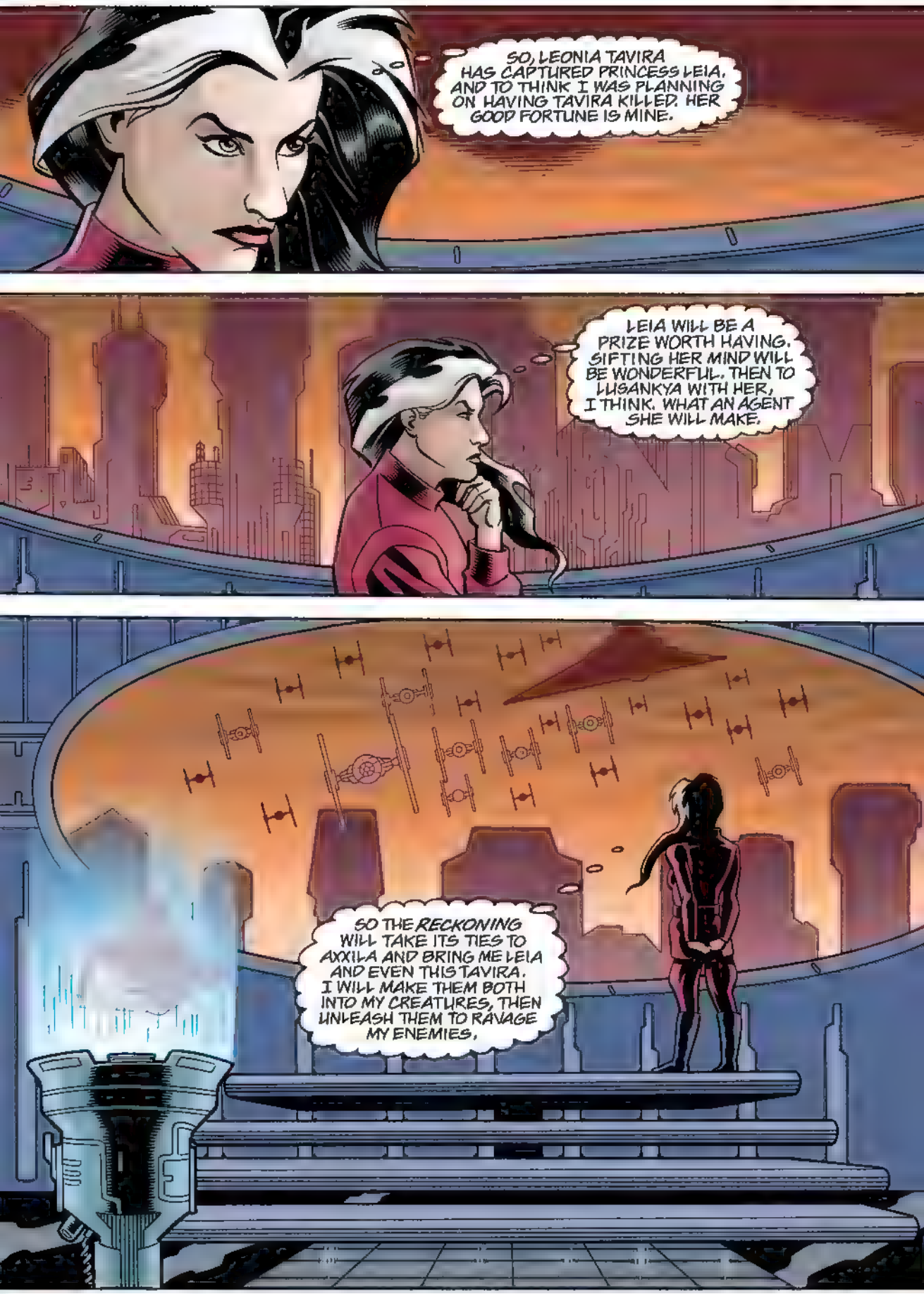
DAMN.

MOVE, BOYS, YOUR HOVERBUS IS HERE.
ARGGGHH!
LOOK OUT!
YOUC... OOOFFF!
FOLLOW FEYLIS. MOVE!
GREAT SHOOTING, AVAN.
THANKS, HOBBIE.
WHERE'D YOU LEARN TO SHOOT?
IT'S SOMETHING I USED TO KILL TIME ON ILLODIA.
I'M GLAD YOU LED A LIFE OF LEISURE. YOU SHOOT VERY WELL.
SO I'VE BEEN TOLD..
I WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOOT FOR ILLODIA IN THE IMPERIAL GAMES ON ALDERAAN.
THEY SUDDENLY GOT CANCELED THAT YEAR. AS DID ALDERAAN.

WEDGE, WE'VE GOT BIG NEWS!
I THINK OURS IS BIGGER, PRINCESS?
PESTAGE HAS OFFERED US CORUSCANT.
DO YOU THINK IT'S FOR REAL, LEI... HIGHNESS?
AVAN, YOU'RE FAMILY IS AS POLITICAL AS MINE. YOU KNOW WE HAVE TO HOPE IT IS TRUE, BUT PLAN AS IF IT IS NOT.
CORUSCANT'S SURRENDER WOULD SAVE A LOT OF LIVES.
THAT'S THE TRICK. HE'LL LEAVE IT DEFENSELESS, NOT SURRENDER IT. IN RETURN FOR SAFETY AND WEALTH.
NOW WHAT WAS YOUR NEWS?
REMEMBER THE PIRATES WE WERE CHASING? KAVIL'S CORSAIRS?
HARD TO FORGET.
WELL, IN CASE YOU NEED TO JOG YOUR MEMORY, THEY'RE HERE, ON AXXILA; BIG AS LIFE AND MEAN AS A BANTHA WITH BOILS.

I KNEW THE MISSION WOULD BE DANGEROUS, BUT NOT THIS WAY. I APOLOGIZE FOR GETTING YOU INTO IT.
YOU DIDN'T GET ME INTO THIS.
SURE I DID. I SUGGESTED WE USE ROGUE SQUADRON AND YOU SPECIFICALLY FOR THIS DUTY. I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
I'M GLAD FOR THAT, DESPITE WHERE WE ARE. IF I'D NOT BEEN ORDERED ON THIS ASSIGNMENT, I WOULD HAVE VOLUNTEERED FOR IT. AND I LIKED TALKING TO YOU ABOUT WINTER.
SORRY ABOUT THE DECEPTION.
DON'T BE. I WAS GLAD TO LEARN WHERE I STAND. AND BEFORE YOU APOLOGIZE AGAIN FOR WHERE THAT IS, LOOK, OTHERS ARE LESS IN DANGER BECAUSE WE'RE HERE, RIGHT?
TRUE. BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK WILL HAPPEN TO US WHEN TAVIRA LEARNS LEIA IS ELSEWHERE?

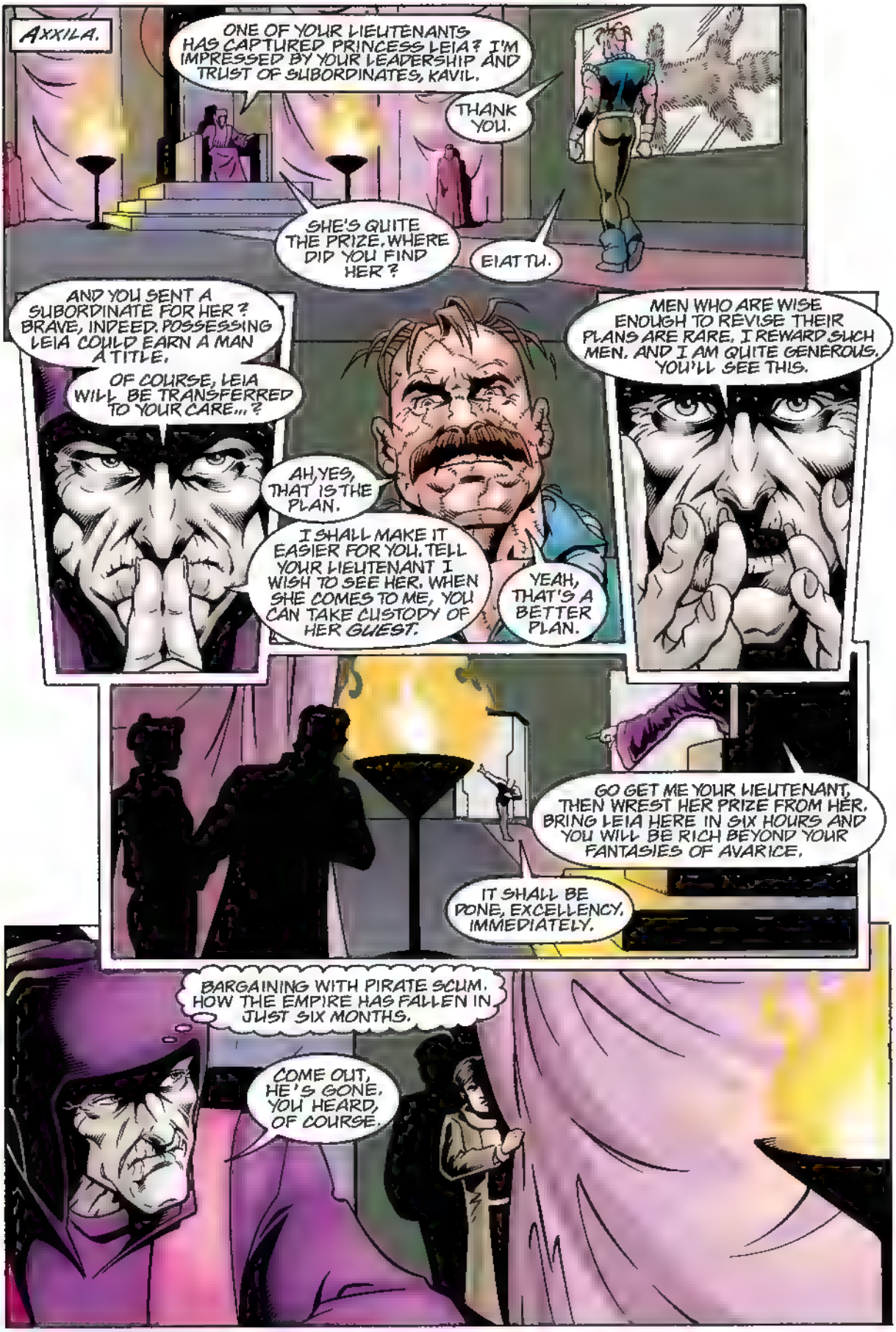

SHE'S NOT THE MOST GRACIOUS OF HOSTESSES, IS SHE? QUESTION IS WHETHER SHE'LL PULL US FROM THE CELLS OR JUST SHOOT US IN HERE.
DYING IN ONE OF THESE CELLS ISN'T HOW I WANT TO GO OUT.
WE'RE NOT DYING IN THESE CELLS, I PROMISE YOU THAT. WE'RE GETTING OUT WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, AND TAVIRA WILL PAY FOR THE LACK OF HOSPITALITY.
YOU ROGUES HAVE A REP FOR DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE, BUT GETTING US OUT OF HERE HAS TO TAX EVEN YOUR SKILLS.
IT'S NOT THE DIFFICULTY OF THE TASK, M'LADY, BUT THE DEGREE OF MOTIVATION.
YOU ONCE REWARDED ME WITH A KISS, AND FOR THE *CHANCE* AT ANOTHER, I'LL TEAR THIS SHIP APART. BELIEVE IT.


SO, LEONIA TAVIRA HAS CAPTURED PRINCESS LEIA. AND TO THINK I WAS PLANNING ON HAVING TAVIRA KILLED. HER GOOD FORTUNE IS MINE.
LEIA WILL BE A PRIZE WORTH HAVING. SIFTING HER MIND WILL BE WONDERFUL. THEN TO LUSANKYA WITH HER, I THINK. WHAT AN AGENT SHE WILL MAKE.
SO THE *RECKONING* WILL TAKE ITS TIES TO AXXILA AND BRING ME LEIA AND EVEN THIS TAVIRA. I WILL MAKE THEM BOTH INTO MY CREATURES, THEN UNLEASH THEM TO RAVAGE MY ENEMIES.

STARFORGE STATION.
BUT I HAVE MY TECH HELPING YOUR DROIDS. WHY DOES IT COST SO MUCH ?
THE AMBIANCE. MY TOOLS, MY DROIDS, MY PARTS, YOUR CREDITS. THAT'S HOW IT WORKS.
HE'S THE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND WHO KIDNAPPED PRINCESS LEIA FROM THE ALDERAAN GOVERNMENTAL PALACE ?
THERE'S OUR MAN.
HE MOVED THEM. ION FLUTTER FROM THE ENGINES MATCHED A PIRATE PATCH FIX. DOESN'T LAST LONG AND NEEDS GOOD REPAIR.
SO HE CAME HERE ?

CHIDEE'S THE BEST AT FIXING YT-1210 FREIGHTERS.
AWAWNK!
PRESENT COMPANY EXCEPTED.
AH, YEAH.
GREETINGS, SOLO. I KNOW YOU'RE NOT HERE FOR REPAIRS, SINCE CHEWBACCA'S SKILL IS LEGENDARY.
NOPE, JUST HERE FOR A CHAT WITH MY GOOD FRIEND RAYT.
WHILE YOU TALK TO HIM, I WILL OFFER CHEWBACCA A FORTUNE TO WORK FOR ME HERE.
NORORNU?
BARGAIN HARD, CHEWIE. THAT'S WHAT WE'LL BE DOING.
YOU MOVED SOME PEOPLE FROM EIATTU RECENTLY...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. CHECK MY LOG.
I'LL DO JUST THAT.
AND WE'LL LEARN THE LOG HAS BEEN SLICED...
WE'LL LEARN SOMETHING FROM IT.
BUT NOT WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW.
TRUE. THAT WILL MAKE CHEWIE UNHAPPY AND WE'LL JUST TELL HIM IT'S ALL RAYT'S FAULT.

ANYTHING YOU FEEL COMPELLED TO TELL US AT THIS POINT?
YOU'RE ALL WRONG ABOUT ME.
SOLO, YOU GOTTA BELIEVE ME. I DIDN'T KNOW WHO THEY WERE. I TRANSFERRED THEM TO A PIRATE FREIGHTER.
AND ITS HOME SYSTEM WAS?
DON'T KNOW. TRIED TO GET THEM TO TELL ME, BUT THEY WOULDN'T.
I'M SURPRISED THEY DIDN'T TRUST YOU.
I'M NOT INCLINED TO TRUST HIM EITHER.
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME...
YOU'RE TOO SUSPICIOUS, FEL. RAYT WOULD NEVER LIE TO A FELLOW SMUGGLER.
NO, NEVER.
IF YOU HAVE LIED, TAKE THE TIME HERE...
C'MON, FEL. HE'S NOT WORTH THE BRUISE HE'D LEAVE ON YOUR KNUCKLES. RUN AND HIDE IF YOU WANT, RAYT, BUT IF YOU'VE LIED, WE'LL FIND YOU.
...TO PUMP YOUR SHIP'S SHIELDS, WON'T STOP ME, BUT YOU'LL THINK IT WILL.


AXXILA.
ONE OF YOUR LIEUTENANTS HAS CAPTURED PRINCESS LEIA? I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR LEADERSHIP AND TRUST OF SUBORDINATES, KAVIL.
THANK YOU.
SHE'S QUITE THE PRIZE. WHERE DID YOU FIND HER?
ET TU.
AND YOU SENT A SUBORDINATE FOR HER? BRAVE, INDEED. POSSESSING LEIA COULD EARN A MAN A TITLE.
OF COURSE, LEIA WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR CARE...?
AH, YES, THAT IS THE PLAN.
I SHALL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU. TELL YOUR LIEUTENANT I WISH TO SEE HER. WHEN SHE COMES TO ME, YOU CAN TAKE CUSTODY OF HER GUEST.
YEAH, THAT'S A BETTER PLAN.
MEN WHO ARE WISE ENOUGH TO REVISE THEIR PLANS ARE RARE. I REWARD SUCH MEN. AND I AM QUITE GENEROUS. YOU'LL SEE THIS.
GO GET ME YOUR LIEUTENANT, THEN WREST HER PRIZE FROM HER. BRING LEIA HERE IN SIX HOURS AND YOU WILL BE RICH BEYOND YOUR FANTASIES OF AVARICE.
IT SHALL BE DONE, EXCELLENCY, IMMEDIATELY.
BARGAINING WITH PIRATE SCUM. HOW THE EMPIRE HAS FALLEN IN JUST SIX MONTHS.
COME OUT, HE'S GONE. YOU HEARD, OF COURSE.

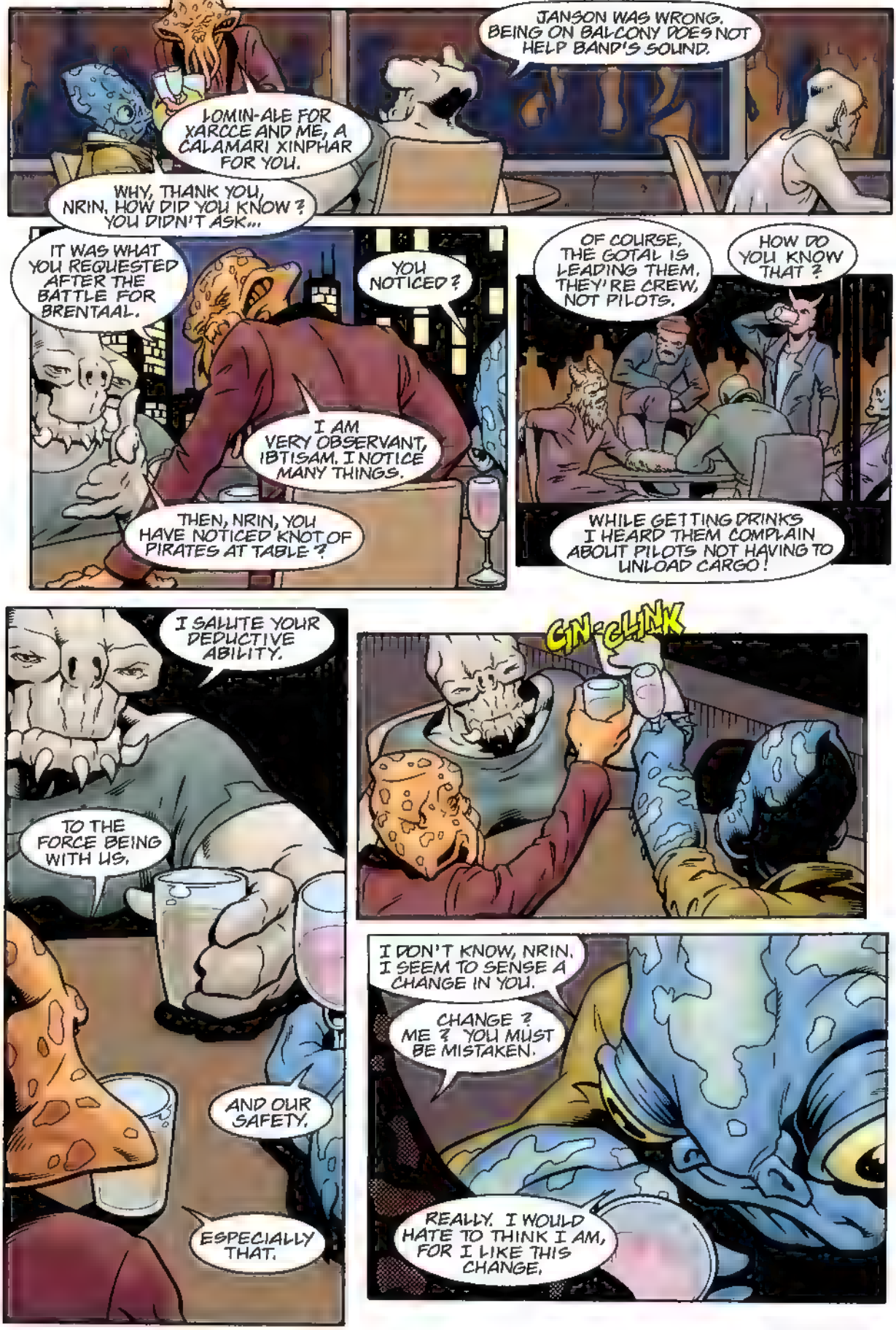
WE HAD AN OPERATION ON EIATTU TO COVER THIS ONE.
IT WOULD SEEM, PRINCESS, YOUR COVER WAS BLOWN.
THINGS ARE UNRAVELING. WE'D BEST CONCLUDE OUR BUSINESS QUICKLY.
I AGREE, BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITHOUT WHOEVER KAVIL'S HOLDING.
OF COURSE NOT. I'LL TURN HER OVER TO YOU AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH. MY INTENTION THE SECOND I HEAR FROM HIM.
HOW DID HE KNOW YOU WERE HERE ?
A QUESTION FOR WHICH I HAVE NO ANSWER. ANOTHER SPUR TO COMPLETE OUR BUSINESS SOON.
YOU LEAVE CORUSCANT OPEN TO US, YOU KEEP SEVEN OF YOUR WORLDS AND WE'LL ALLOW THREE OF YOUR FRIENDS TO KEEP UP TO A DOZEN WORLDS TOTAL.
I KEEP TEN AND FOUR GET TWENTY.
YOU GET TEN, FOUR GET FIFTEEN.
DONE AND DONE. THE PROVO COUNCIL WILL HONOR THIS AGREEMENT ?
THEY WILL. NO ONE WANTS THE SLAUGHTER AN ASSAULT ON CORUSCANT WOULD CAUSE.
NO, OF COURSE NOT.
I CAN'T SAY I LIKE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU...
BUT BETTER ME THAN ISARD.
BETTER LIFE AND LIBERTY THAN DEATH. I'LL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS AND WE'LL FINALIZE THINGS WHEN YOU GET MY DOUBLE.

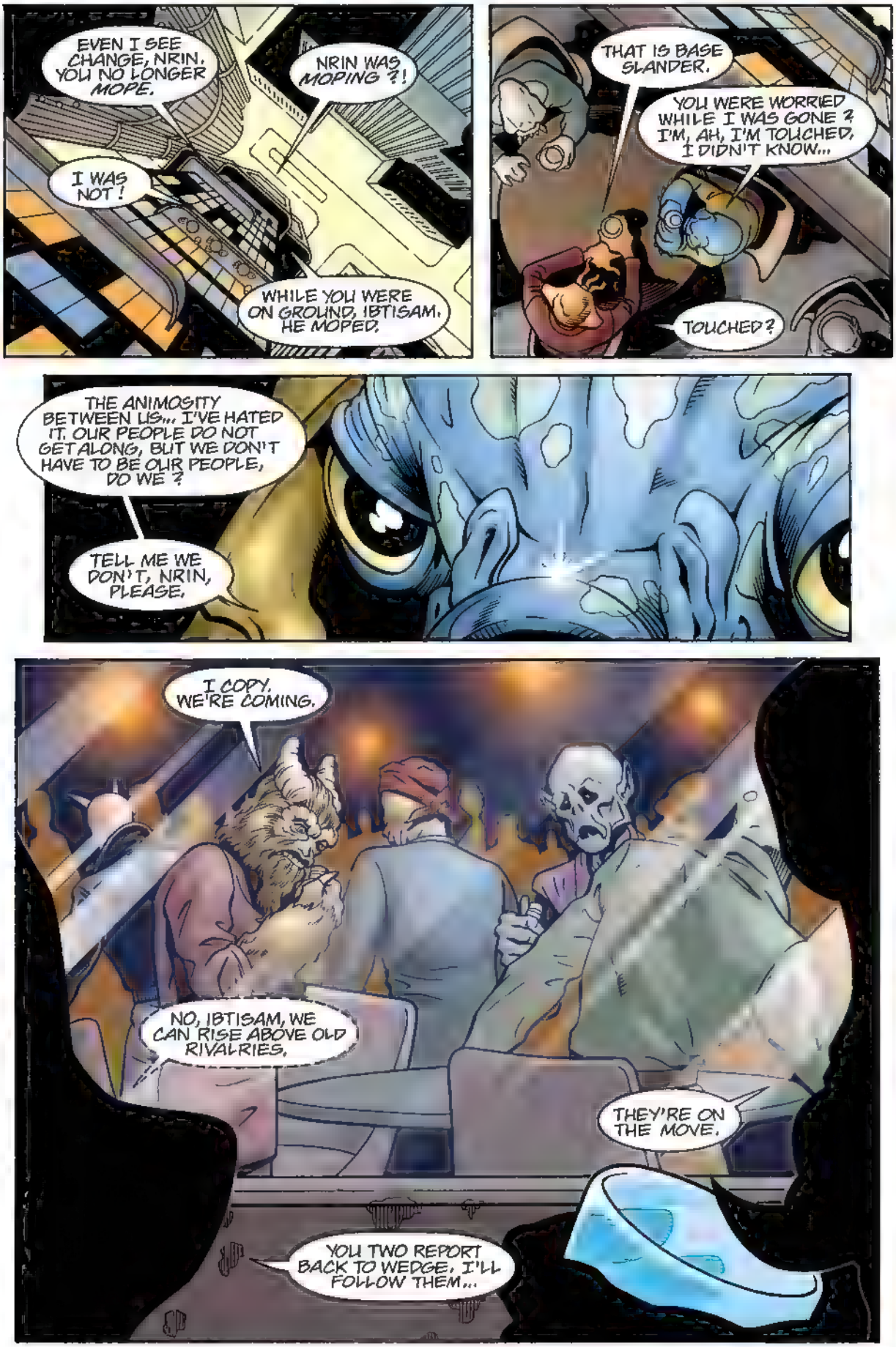
YOU LET RAYT GO QUICKLY. WAS HE NOT OUR MAN?
HE WAS, AND WAS CLEVER ENOUGH THAT HE WASN'T GOING TO GIVE ANYTHING UP WITHOUT SERIOUS PAIN.
THE DATACARD YOU TOOK. IT HAS HIS LOG ON IT.
AND THE PROBLEM WAS?
I FOUND A BETTER WAY.
NOPE. THE ONE I COPIED HAD HIS LOG ON IT. I SWITCHED IT FOR THIS ONE, WHICH IS HIS VERPINE CO-PILOT'S REPAIR LOG.
RAYT MIGHT HAVE SLICED HIS SHIP LOG, BUT A VERPINE KEEPS PERFECT TRACK OF REPAIRS. I DOUBT RAYT EVEN KNOWS THE VERPINE KEEPS A LOG.
HE'S RATHER INSUFFERABLE WHEN SO SMUG, ISN'T HE?
ARRAWK
JEALOUS OF MY BRAINS, SOONTIR; OR JUST ANGRY YOU DIDN'T SEE ME SWITCH DATACARDS?
HOW DID YOU...? CHEWIE, DID YOU TELL HIM?
GNORT
YOU USED THE SLEIGHT OF HAND YOU LEARNED WHEN SERVING AS XAVERRI'S AIDE IN THE MAGIC SHOW.
YOUR IMPERIAL DOSSIER IS QUITE COMPLETE, HAN. IT EVEN HAD HOLOGRAPHS...
NO...
NO MORE SO THAN AN IMPERIAL UNIFORM DID.
WAS IT THE UNIFORM THAT CHAFED, OR THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT CAME WITH IT?
THOSE SPANGLES ON THE COSTUME CHAFED, DIDN'T THEY?

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHEN YOU LEFT THE SERVICE, YOU TOOK CARE OF YOURSELF, CHEWBACCA, AND SOME FRIENDS. THAT'S IT.
THAT WAS ENOUGH.
BUT IT WASN'T ALL YOU COULD HANDLE. YOU REFUSED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, EVEN AFTER JOINING THE REBELS.
EVEN WITH THE SLANT IN YOUR IMPERIAL FILE, YOU DIDN'T GIVE YOUR HEART TO THE CAUSE UNTIL ENDOR.
GOT THE JOB DONE.
NOT ALL OF US RECOGNIZE THAT WE NEED TO DO ALL WE CAN TO MAKE LIFE BETTER.
OR WE CHOOSE TO DENY IT FOR A TIME.
YEAH, THAT TOO.
BZZT!
HEY, TRANSLATION DONE. REPAIRS WERE MADE AT AXXILA.
AXXILA?
TURN CORUSCANT INSIDE OUT AND MAKE IT A JAIL WHERE THE INMATES ARE IN CONTROL...
"SOUNDS LOVELY..."
THERE IT IS, FEL. AXXILA, CHEWIE, TAKE US IN QUIETLY. DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE RIGHT OFF...

WINTER, GET UP, TIME TO BE MOVING.
UGH, RIGHT. <YAWN> AH, TYCHO, WE'RE STILL IN OUR CELLS.
NOT FOR LONG.
THE LATCHES HERE ARE THE CANOPY LATCHES FROM TIE FIGHTERS, THEY'RE NOTORIOUSLY HARD TO OPEN...
AS A PILOT, YOU LEARN HOW TO OPEN THEM BY ANY MEANS POSSIBLE.
OF COURSE, SOMEONE ALWAYS OBJECTS WHEN YOU DAMAGE THE HARDWARE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF...
BUT HANDLING COMPLAINTS ISN'T THAT HARD...
CRUNCH!
...WITH SUCH ABLE ASSISTANCE.
CLANG!
IMPECCABLE TIMING, LIEUTENANT CELCHU.

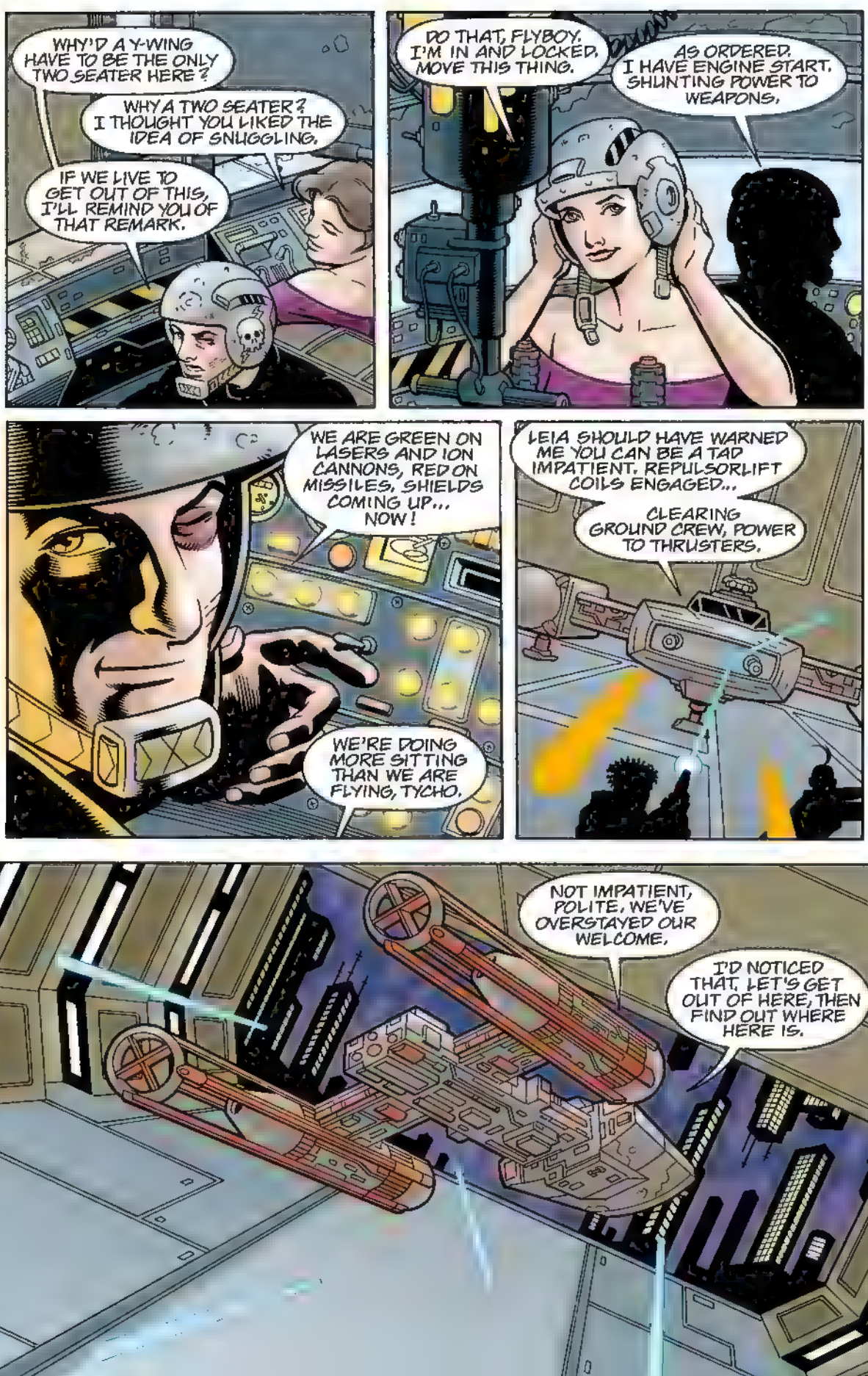
STEP ONE ACCOMPLISHED. NOW WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE WE'RE GOING.
RIGHT TAKES US BACK TO TAVIRA...
LEFT IT IS, THEN.
PAST THEM, AND WE GO FOR THE Y-WING.
AND WE GET PAST THEM EXACTLY HOW?
SO THE PLAN HAS SOME FLAWS...
...THEN I DREW A DEUCE AND THE FLUX HIT...
I JUST HAVE TO FALL FOR A FLYBOY. GIVE ME THAT THING.
THIS WILL KEEP THE STUN-CHARGE GOING. I TAKE ONE WITH A TOSS, YOU GET THE OTHER ONE.
I JUST HAVE TO FALL FOR A WOMAN WHO THINKS I'M A STORMTROOPER.
GO!
HEY, THE PLAN WORKED!
BZZAPPPP!
SO FAR, BUT THEY'VE SOUNDED AN ALARM!

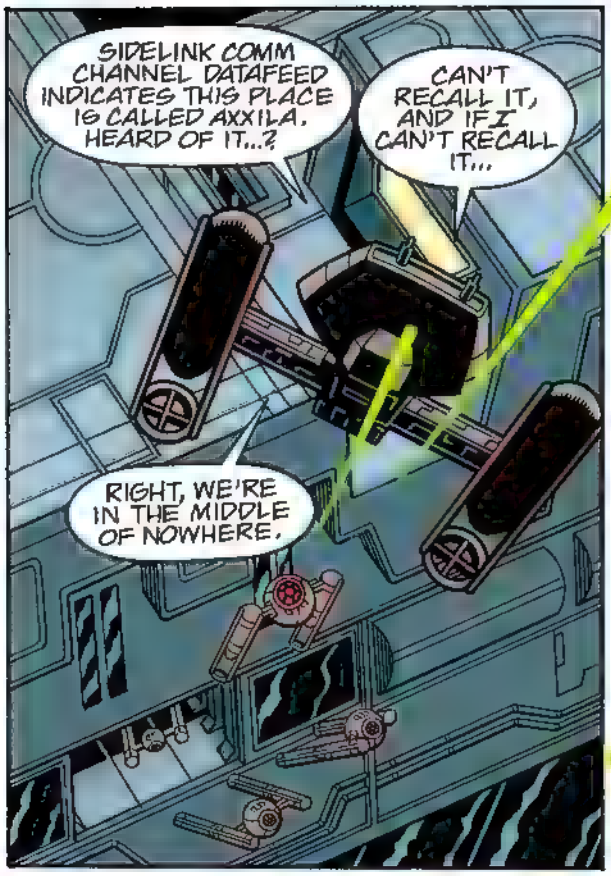

JANSON WAS WRONG. BEING ON BALCONY DOES NOT HELP BAND'S SOUND.
LOMIN-ALE FOR XARCCE AND ME, A CALAMARI XINPHAR FOR YOU.
WHY, THANK YOU, NRIN. HOW DID YOU KNOW? YOU DIDN'T ASK...
IT WAS WHAT YOU REQUESTED AFTER THE BATTLE FOR BRENTAAL.
YOU NOTICED?
I AM VERY OBSERVANT, IBTISAM. I NOTICE MANY THINGS.
THEN, NRIN, YOU HAVE NOTICED KNOT OF PIRATES AT TABLE?
OF COURSE, THE GOTAL IS LEADING THEM. THEY'RE CREW, NOT PILOTS.
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
WHILE GETTING DRINKS I HEARD THEM COMPLAIN ABOUT PILOTS NOT HAVING TO UNLOAD CARGO!
I SALUTE YOUR DEDUCTIVE ABILITY.
TO THE FORCE BEING WITH US.
AND OUR SAFETY.
ESPECIALLY THAT.
CN-CLINK
I DON'T KNOW, NRIN. I SEEM TO SENSE A CHANGE IN YOU.
CHANGE? ME? YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.
REALLY. I WOULD HATE TO THINK I AM, FOR I LIKE THIS CHANGE.


EVEN I SEE CHANGE, NRIN. YOU NO LONGER MOPE.
NRIN WAS MOPING ?!
I WAS NOT !
WHILE YOU WERE ON GROUND, IBTISAM. HE MOPED.
THAT IS BASE SLANDER.
YOU WERE WORRIED WHILE I WAS GONE ? I'M, AH, I'M TOUCHED, I DIDN'T KNOW...
TOUCHED ?
THE ANIMOSITY BETWEEN US... I'VE HATED IT. OUR PEOPLE DO NOT GET ALONG, BUT WE DON'T HAVE TO BE OUR PEOPLE, DO WE ?
TELL ME WE DON'T, NRIN, PLEASE.
I COPY. WE'RE COMING.
NO, IBTISAM, WE CAN RISE ABOVE OLD RIVALRIES.
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
YOU TWO REPORT BACK TO WEDGE. I'LL FOLLOW THEM...

JUST DO IT.
NOT PLAN I RECALL FROM BRIEFING.
XARCCE, GET WORD TO WEDGE, I'LL HELP NRIN.
NOT RECALL NEW PLAN EITHER.
I WANTED TO KEEP YOU OUT OF TROUBLE.
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME.
I'M HERE, DEAL WITH IT.
I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET INTO TROUBLE.
BLAST! WE'VE LOST THEM.
THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN AWAY THAT FAST!
WE WAITED FOR YOU. DIDN'T WANT YOU TO LOSE YOUR WAY.
THE CAPTAIN WAS RIGHT, AND WE GOT OUR VISITORS.
LET HER GO— SHE'S NOT PART OF THIS.
BRAVE WORDS, BLASTER BOY. YOU I BREAK FIRST.
SHE IS NOW, SQUID-FACE!

NRIN!
YOU SUICIDAL FOOL!
CRUNCH!
SNAP!
SUCH TROUBLE YOU FIND WHEN I LET YOU RUN OFF!
NOT SUICIDAL, NOT A FOOL!
UGH!
XARCCE, YOU CALL THIS TROUBLE?
KRAK
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN HASTY.
NOT HASTY, JUST RIGHT ON TIME.
WITH YOU AROUND, XARRCE, WHO NEEDS PLOURR?
YOU HONOR ME, NRIN, HOW BAD IS IT?
HE MISSED-- FOR THE MOST PART. LET'S GO REPORT.


WHY'D A Y-WING HAVE TO BE THE ONLY TWO SEATER HERE?
WHY A TWO SEATER? I THOUGHT YOU LIKED THE IDEA OF SNUGGLING.
IF WE LIVE TO GET OUT OF THIS, I'LL REMIND YOU OF THAT REMARK.
DO THAT, FLYBOY. I'M IN AND LOCKED. MOVE THIS THING.
AS ORDERED. I HAVE ENGINE START. SHUNTING POWER TO WEAPONS.
WE ARE GREEN ON LASERS AND ION CANNONS, RED ON MISSILES, SHIELDS COMING UP... NOW!
WE'RE DOING MORE SITTING THAN WE ARE FLYING, TYCHO.
LEIA SHOULD HAVE WARNED ME YOU CAN BE A TAD IMPATIENT. REPULSORLIFT COILS ENGAGED...
CLEARING GROUND CREW, POWER TO THRUSTERS.
NOT IMPATIENT, POLITE. WE'VE OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME.
I'D NOTICED THAT. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, THEN FIND OUT WHERE HERE IS.


SIDELINK COMM CHANNEL DATAFEED INDICATES THIS PLACE IS CALLED AXXILA. HEARD OF IT...?
CAN'T RECALL IT, AND IF I CAN'T RECALL IT...
RIGHT, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE.

TRY A WIDEBEAM DISTRESS CALL. NEW REPUBLIC MIGHT HAVE ASSETS HERE.
WITHOUT YOU KNOWING? I DOUBT IT. AND A DISTRESS CALL WOULD SUGGEST WE'RE...
...IN DISTRESS? HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR REAR SCOPE YET?

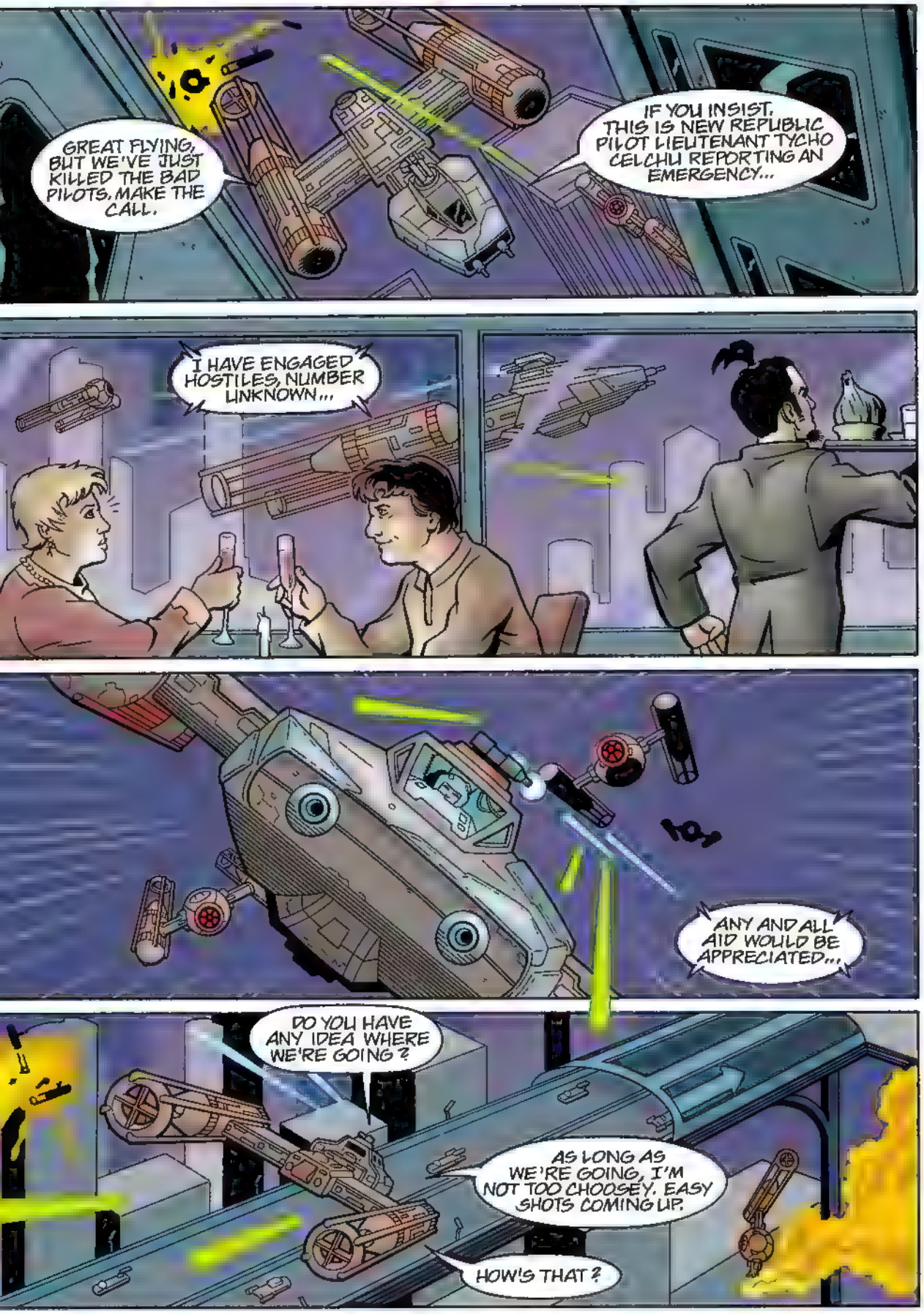
NOPE. FRONT SCOPE IS BAD ENOUGH.
I'VE GOT TWO COMING UP.
I'VE GOT THREE, CAN'T OUT-FIGHT THEM...

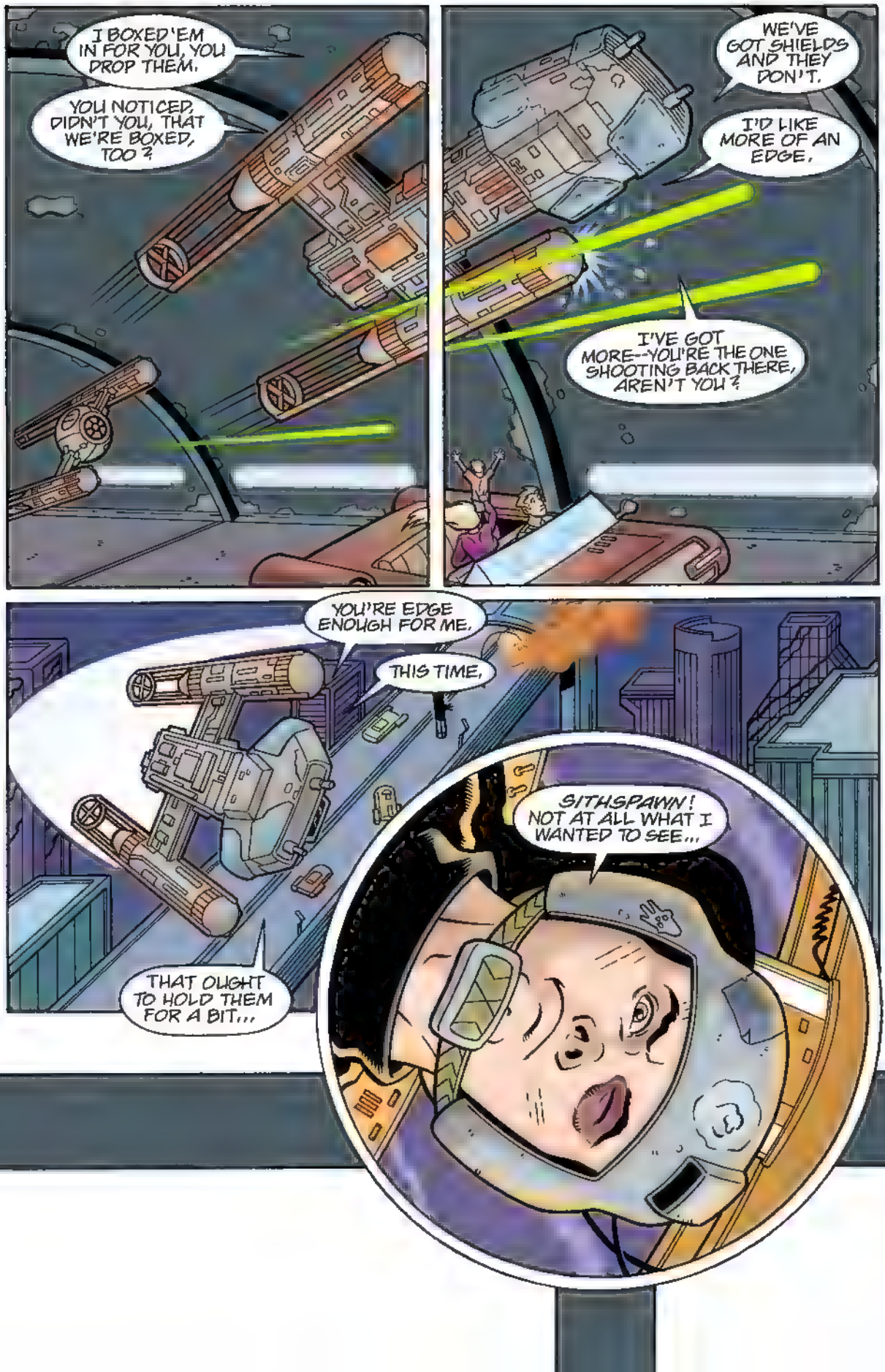
HAVE TO OUT-FLY THEM. HANG ON!

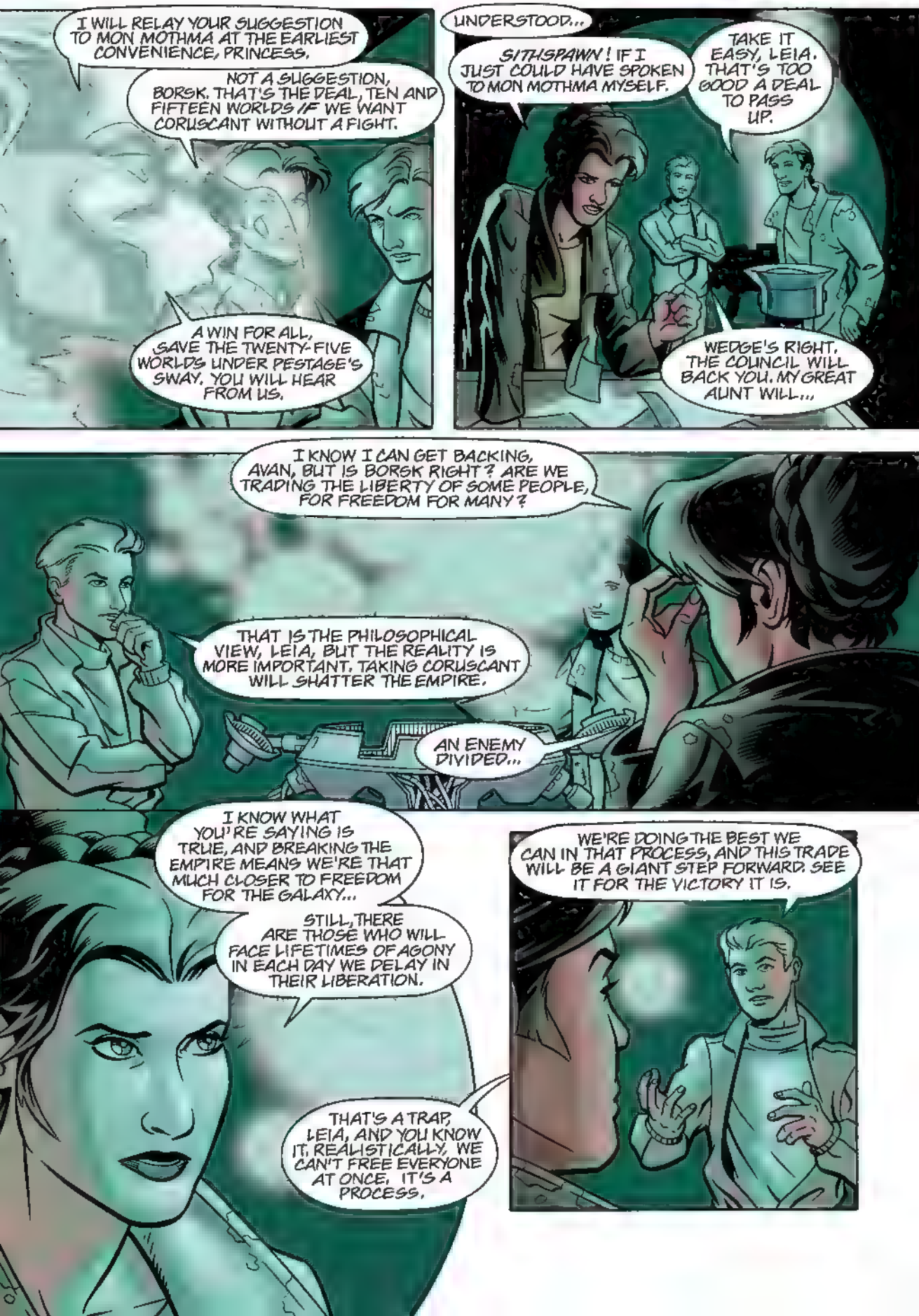
KAVIL'S CORSAIRS BRAVELY PURSUE WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE MERE SHIP THIEVES.

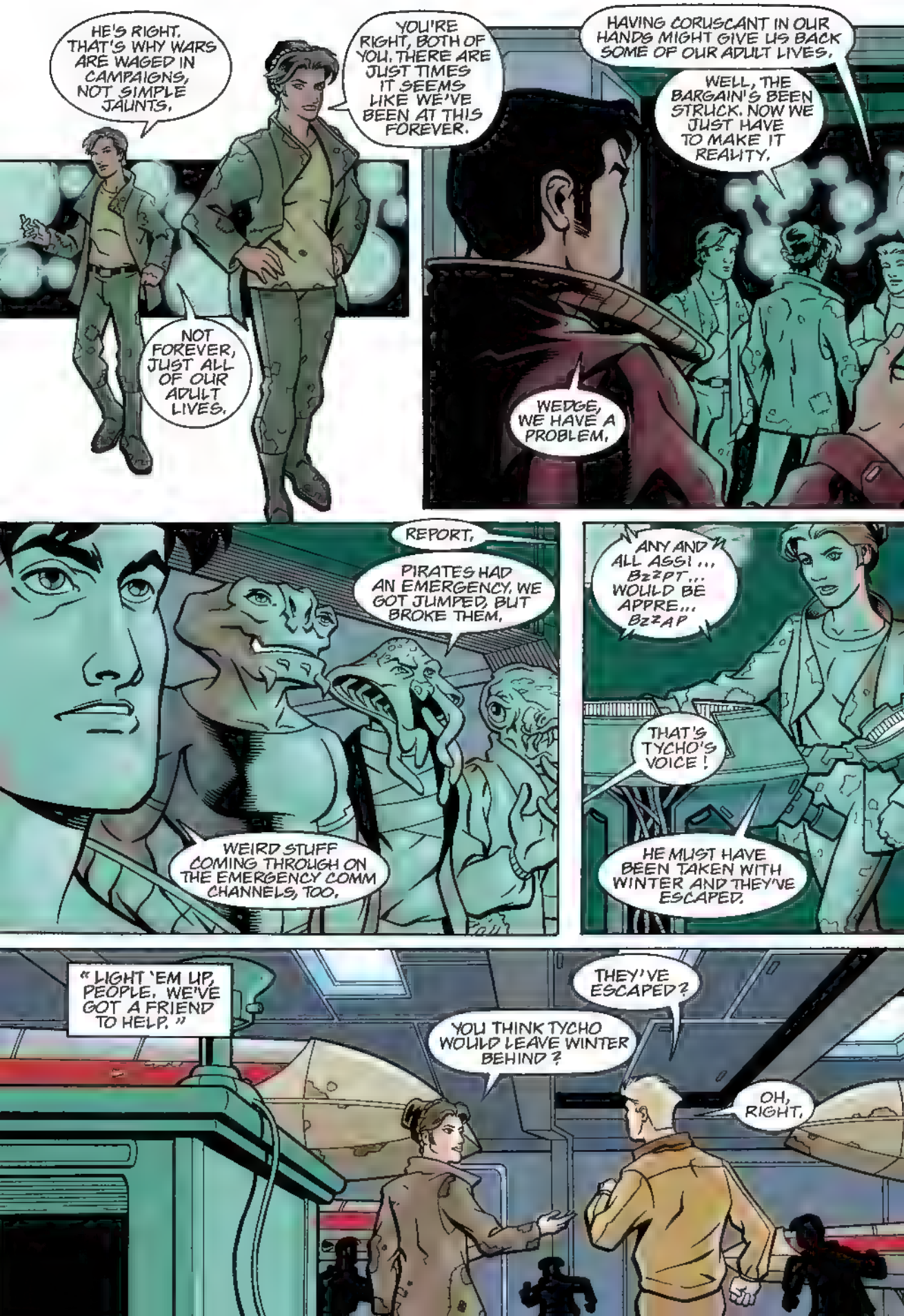
EVEN IF THEY HAD KNOWN THE TRUTH, THEY WOULD HAVE COME ON JUST AS FAST...

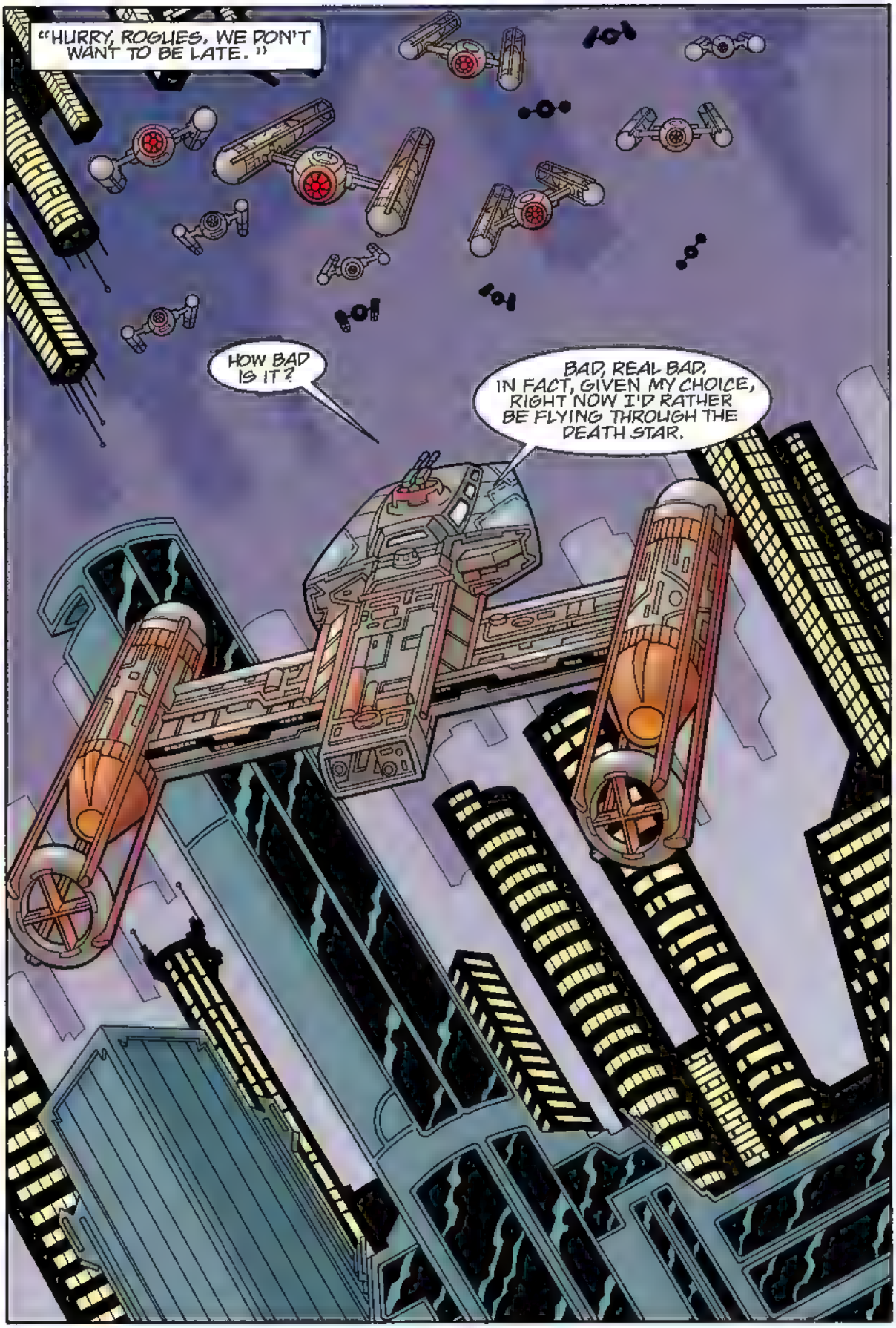
AND DIED JUST AS FOOLISHLY.

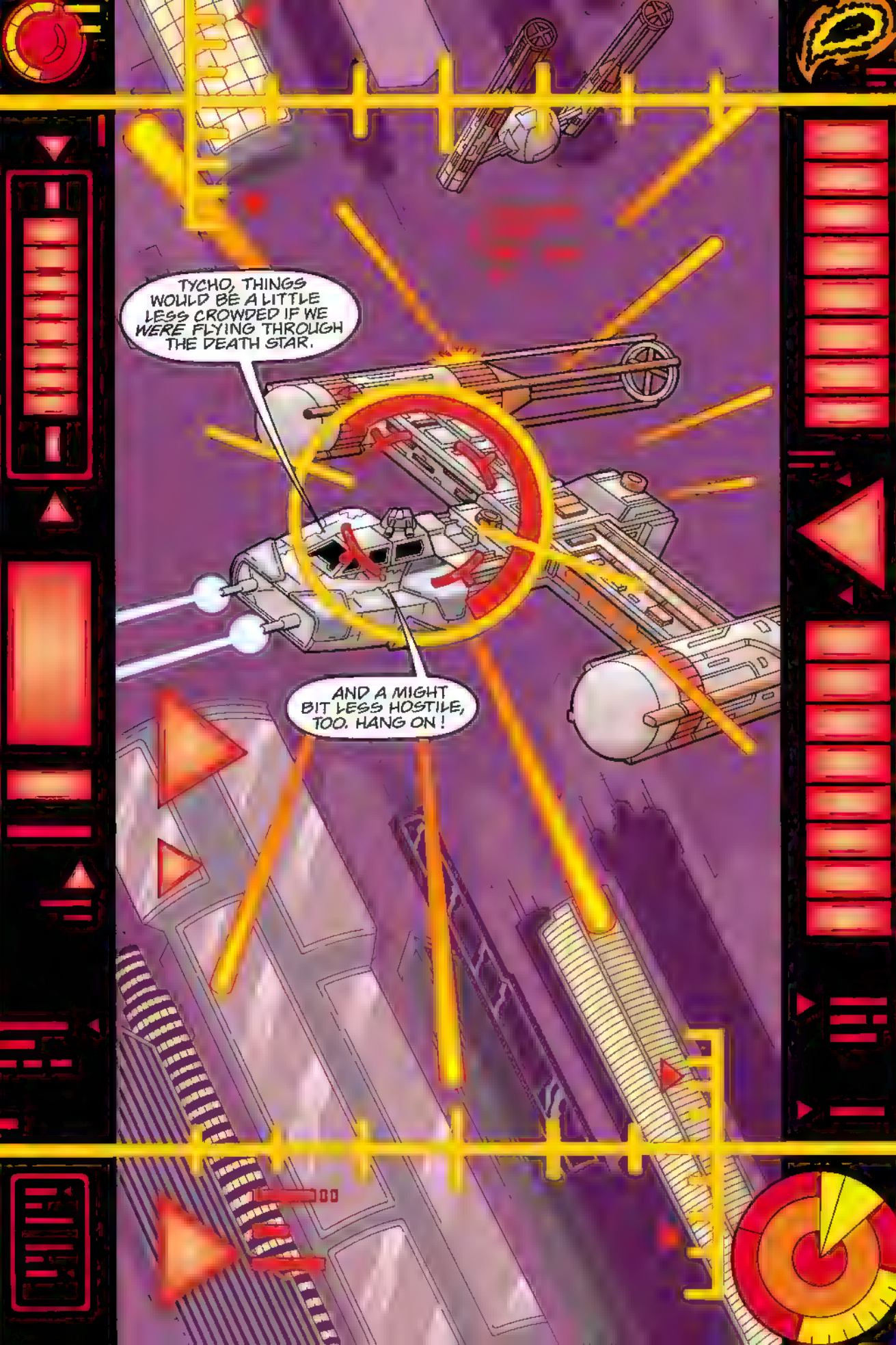

GREAT FLYING, BUT WE'VE JUST KILLED THE BAD PILOTS. MAKE THE CALL.
IF YOU INSIST. THIS IS NEW REPUBLIC PILOT LIEUTENANT TYCHO CELCHU REPORTING AN EMERGENCY...
I HAVE ENGAGED HOSTILES, NUMBER UNKNOWN...
ANY AND ALL AID WOULD BE APPRECIATED...
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE WE'RE GOING?
AS LONG AS WE'RE GOING, I'M NOT TOO CHOOSEY. EASY SHOTS COMING UP.
HOW'S THAT?

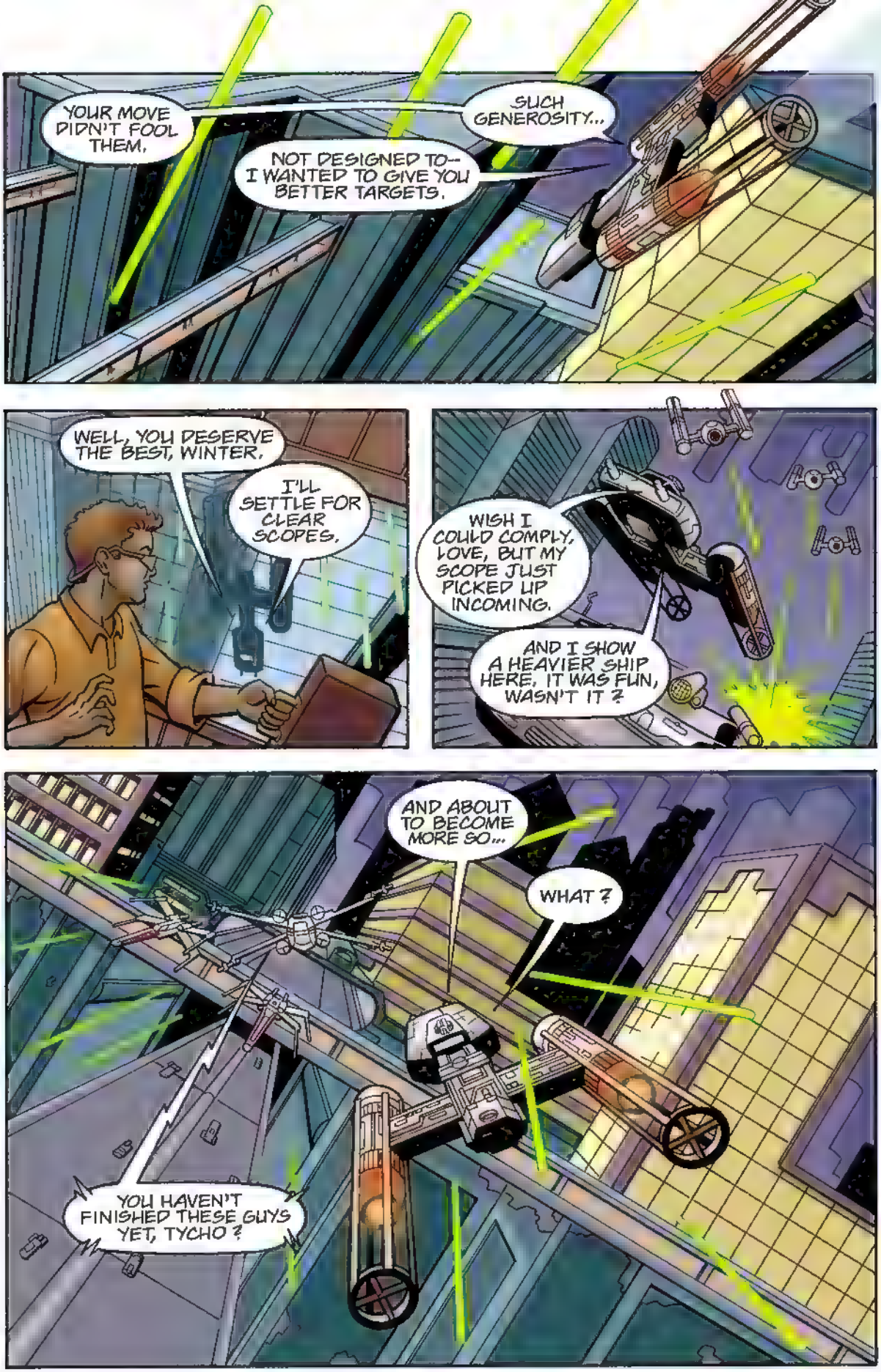

I BOXED 'EM IN FOR YOU, YOU DROP THEM.
YOU NOTICED, DIDN'T YOU, THAT WE'RE BOXED, TOO?
WE'VE GOT SHIELDS AND THEY DON'T.
I'D LIKE MORE OF AN EDGE.
I'VE GOT MORE--YOU'RE THE ONE SHOOTING BACK THERE, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE EDGE ENOUGH FOR ME.
THIS TIME.
SITHSPAWN! NOT AT ALL WHAT I WANTED TO SEE...
THAT OUGHT TO HOLD THEM FOR A BIT...

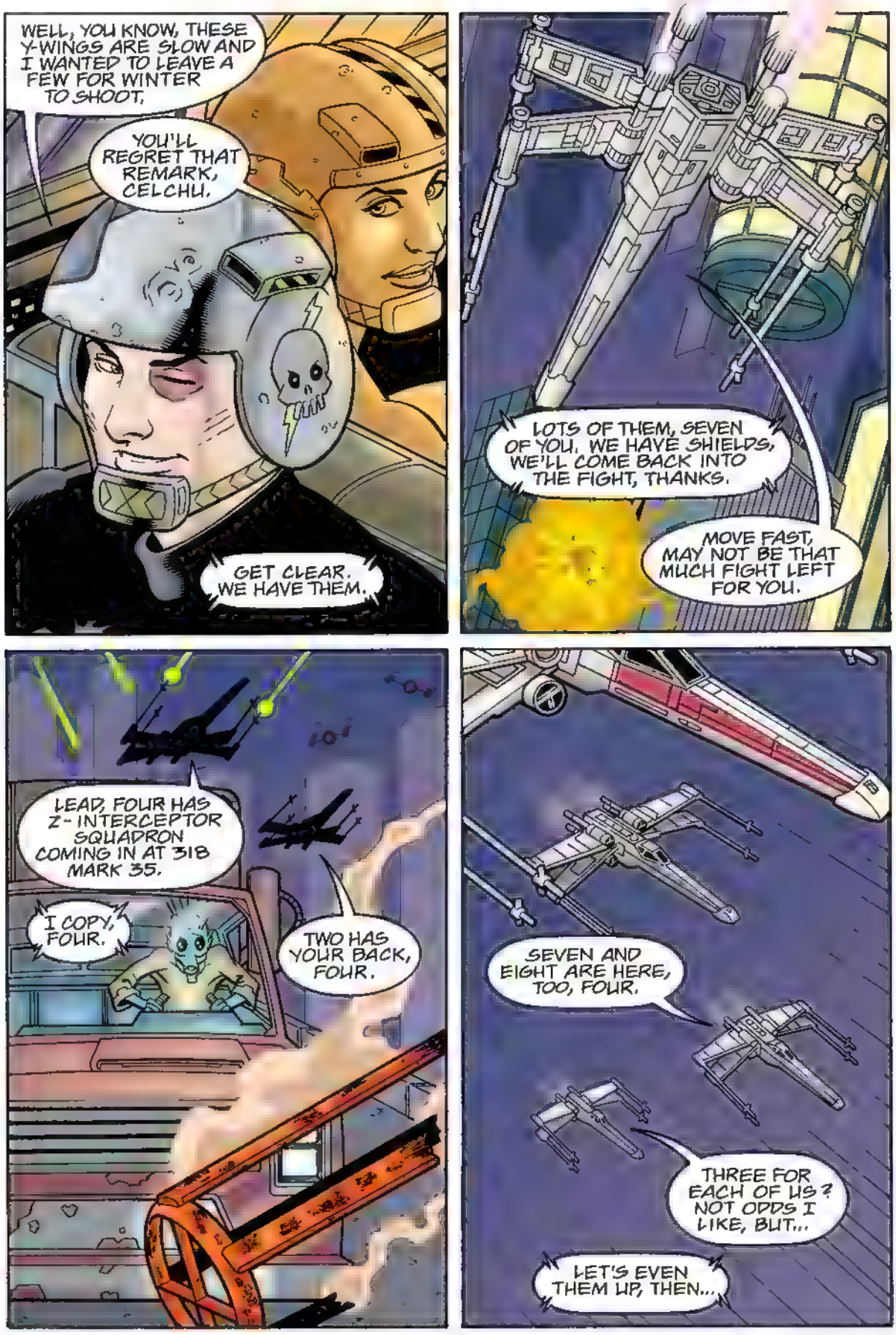

I WILL RELAY YOUR SUGGESTION TO MON MOTHMA AT THE EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, PRINCESS.
NOT A SUGGESTION, BORSK. THAT'S THE DEAL, TEN AND FIFTEEN WORLDS IF WE WANT CORUSCANT WITHOUT A FIGHT.
A WIN FOR ALL, SAVE THE TWENTY-FIVE WORLDS UNDER PESTAGE'S SWAY. YOU WILL HEAR FROM US.
UNDERSTOOD...
SITHSPAWN! IF I JUST COULD HAVE SPOKEN TO MON MOTHMA MYSELF.
TAKE IT EASY, LEIA. THAT'S TOO GOOD A DEAL TO PASS UP.
WEDGE'S RIGHT. THE COUNCIL WILL BACK YOU. MY GREAT AUNT WILL...
I KNOW I CAN GET BACKING, AVAN, BUT IS BORSK RIGHT? ARE WE TRADING THE LIBERTY OF SOME PEOPLE, FOR FREEDOM FOR MANY?
THAT IS THE PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW, LEIA, BUT THE REALITY IS MORE IMPORTANT. TAKING CORUSCANT WILL SHATTER THE EMPIRE.
AN ENEMY DIVIDED...
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS TRUE, AND BREAKING THE EMPIRE MEANS WE'RE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO FREEDOM FOR THE GALAXY...
STILL, THERE ARE THOSE WHO WILL FACE LIFETIMES OF AGONY IN EACH DAY WE DELAY IN THEIR LIBERATION.
THAT'S A TRAP, LEIA, AND YOU KNOW IT. REALISTICALLY, WE CAN'T FREE EVERYONE AT ONCE. IT'S A PROCESS.
WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN IN THAT PROCESS, AND THIS TRADE WILL BE A GIANT STEP FORWARD. SEE IT FOR THE VICTORY IT IS.


HE'S RIGHT. THAT'S WHY WARS ARE WAGED IN CAMPAIGNS, NOT SIMPLE JAUNTS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOTH OF YOU. THERE ARE JUST TIMES IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOREVER.
NOT FOREVER, JUST ALL OF OUR ADULT LIVES.
HAVING CORUSCANT IN OUR HANDS MIGHT GIVE US BACK SOME OF OUR ADULT LIVES.
WELL, THE BARGAIN'S BEEN STRUCK. NOW WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE IT REALITY.
WEDGE, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
REPORT.
PIRATES HAD AN EMERGENCY. WE GOT JUMPED, BUT BROKE THEM.
WEIRD STUFF COMING THROUGH ON THE EMERGENCY COMM CHANNELS, TOO.
ANY AND ALL ASSI..., BZZPT... WOULD BE APPRE..., BZZAP
THAT'S TYCHO'S VOICE!
HE MUST HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH WINTER AND THEY'VE ESCAPED.
"LIGHT 'EM UP, PEOPLE. WE'VE GOT A FRIEND TO HELP."
THEY'VE ESCAPED?
YOU THINK TYCHO WOULD LEAVE WINTER BEHIND?
OH, RIGHT.


"HURRY, ROGUES, WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE."
HOW BAD IS IT?
BAD, REAL BAD. IN FACT, GIVEN MY CHOICE, RIGHT NOW I'D RATHER BE FLYING THROUGH THE DEATH STAR.


TYCHO, THINGS WOULD BE A LITTLE LESS CROWDED IF WE *WERE* FLYING THROUGH THE DEATH STAR.
AND A MIGHT BIT LESS HOSTILE, TOO. HANG ON!


YOUR MOVE DIDN'T FOOL THEM.
SUCH GENEROSITY...
NOT DESIGNED TO-- I WANTED TO GIVE YOU BETTER TARGETS.
WELL, YOU DESERVE THE BEST, WINTER.
I'LL SETTLE FOR CLEAR SCOPES.
WISH I COULD COMPLY, LOVE, BUT MY SCOPE JUST PICKED UP INCOMING.
AND I SHOW A HEAVIER SHIP HERE. IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT ?
AND ABOUT TO BECOME MORE SO...
WHAT ?
YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED THESE GUYS YET, TYCHO ?


WELL, YOU KNOW, THESE Y-WINGS ARE SLOW AND I WANTED TO LEAVE A FEW FOR WINTER TO SHOOT.
YOU'LL REGRET THAT REMARK, CELCHU.
GET CLEAR. WE HAVE THEM.
LOTS OF THEM, SEVEN OF YOU. WE HAVE SHIELDS, WE'LL COME BACK INTO THE FIGHT, THANKS.
MOVE FAST, MAY NOT BE THAT MUCH FIGHT LEFT FOR YOU.
LEAD, FOUR HAS Z-INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON COMING IN AT 318 MARK 35.
I COPY, FOUR.
TWO HAS YOUR BACK, FOUR.
SEVEN AND EIGHT ARE HERE, TOO, FOUR.
THREE FOR EACH OF US? NOT ODDS I LIKE, BUT...
LET'S EVEN THEM UP, THEN...

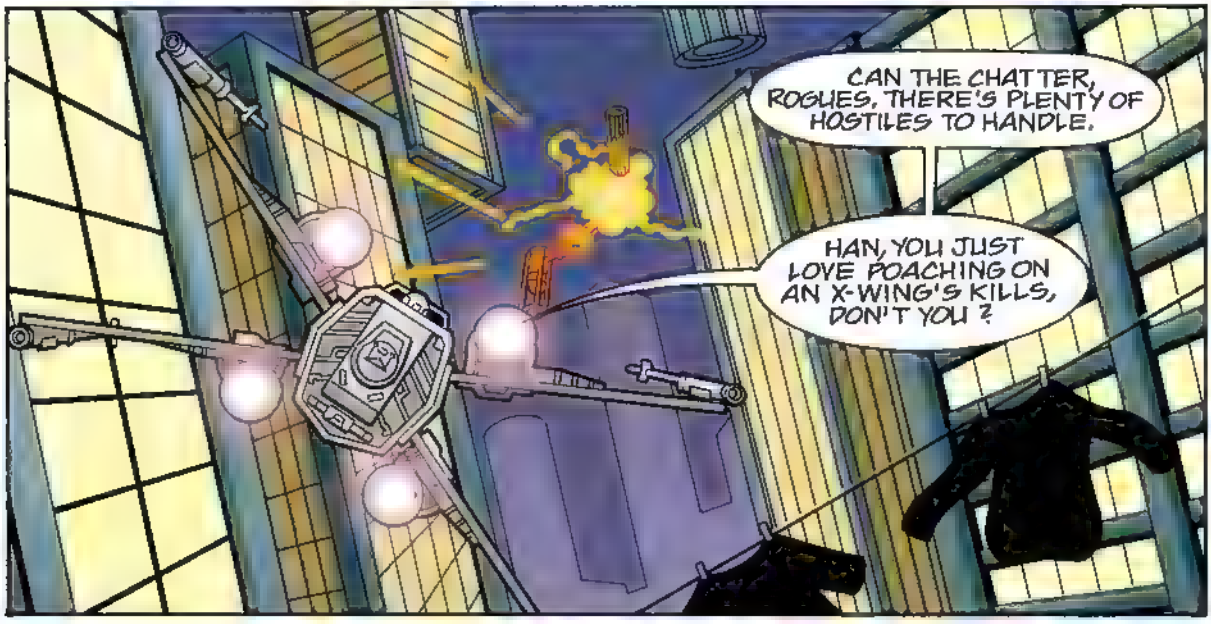
MAYBE THEY WANT MORE RESCUE, LESS GLOAT, HAN.

SO SHOOT FASTER, FEL.

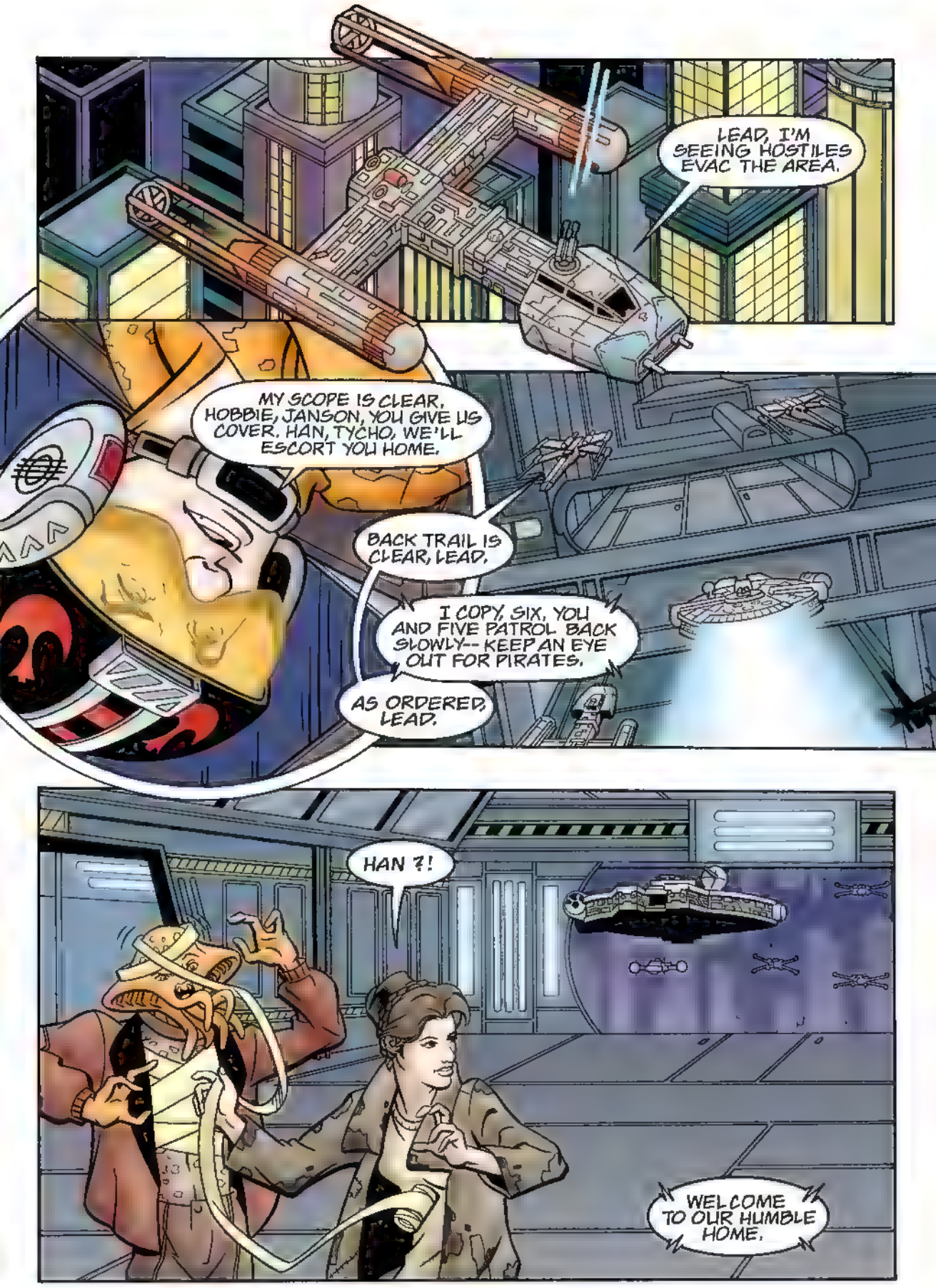
BY THE EMPEROR'S BLACK BONES!

YOU X-WING PILOTS, SO EXCITABLE WHEN RESCUED.

HAS TO BE SOLO IN THAT THING.
WHY'S THAT, WES?
WHO ELSE THINKS A STOCK FREIGHTER IS A SNUBFIGHTER?

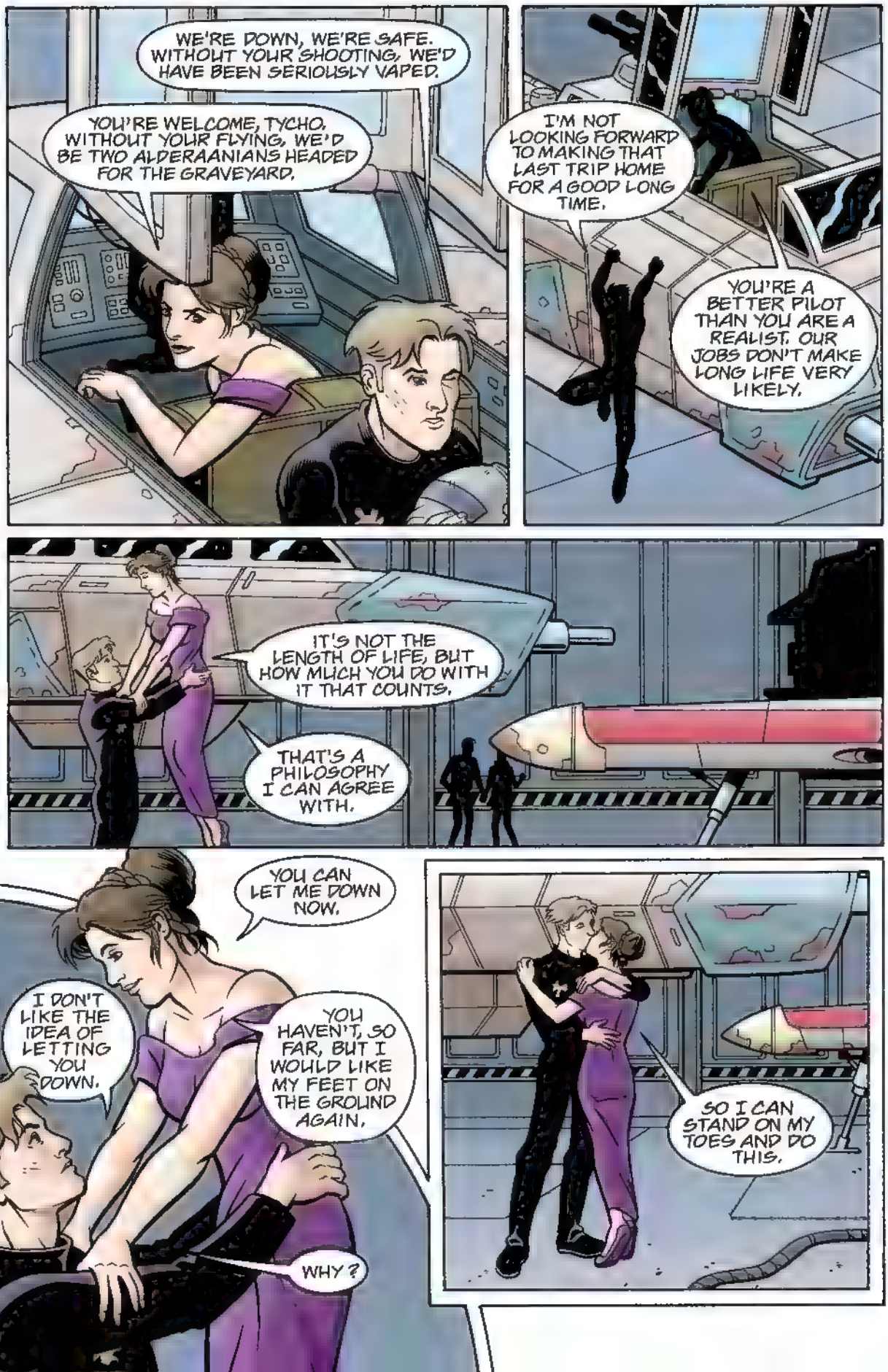

CAN THE CHATTER, ROGUES, THERE'S PLENTY OF HOSTILES TO HANDLE.
HAN, YOU JUST LOVE POACHING ON AN X-WING'S KILLS, DON'T YOU?

BAD HABIT OF NOT WANTING TO SEE FRIENDS DIE, WEDGE.
TOUGH HABIT TO BREAK. DON'T TRY.
I COPY, ROGUE LEADER.

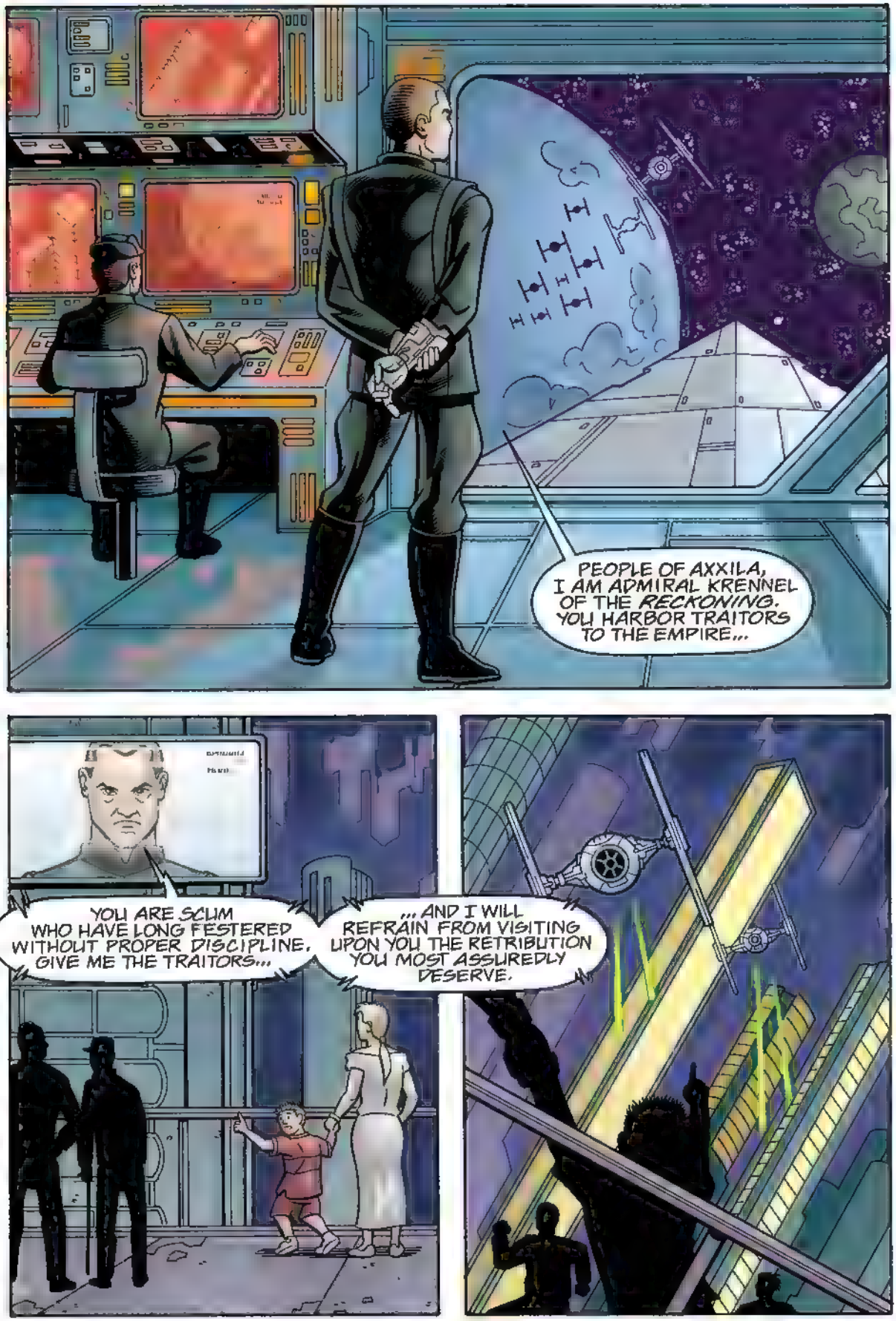

LEAD, I'M SEEING HOSTILES EVAC THE AREA.
MY SCOPE IS CLEAR, HOBBIE, JANSON, YOU GIVE US COVER. HAN, TYCHO, WE'LL ESCORT YOU HOME.
BACK TRAIL IS CLEAR, LEAD.
I COPY, SIX, YOU AND FIVE PATROL BACK SLOWLY-- KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR PIRATES.
AS ORDERED, LEAD.
HAN ?!
WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE HOME.

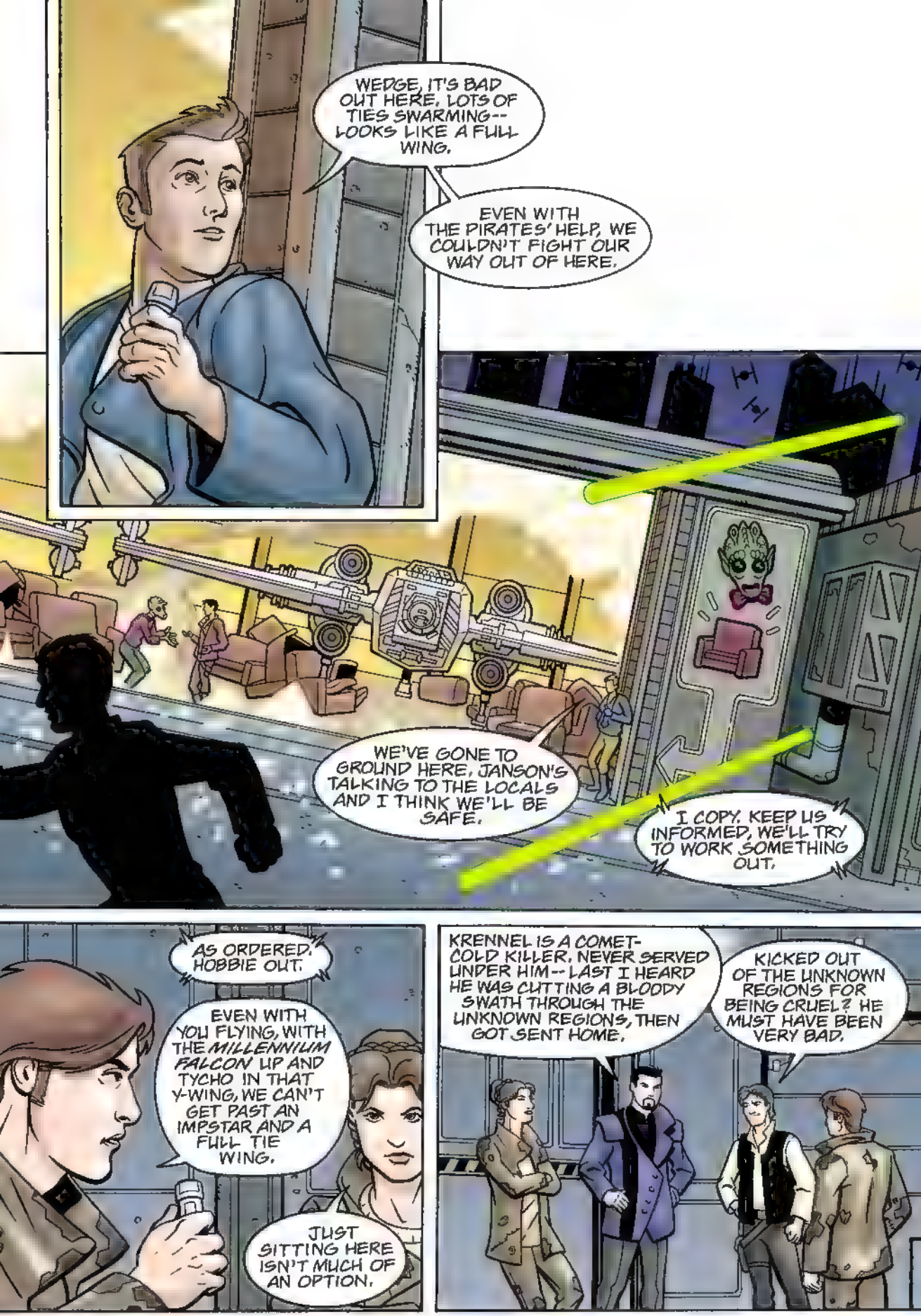
YOU FLY WING COVER WELL, IBTISAM.
YOU'RE HARD TO KEEP UP WITH, XARCCE.
I'M TELLING YOU, CAPTAIN, THAT FREIGHTER CAME OUT OF NOWHERE.
THE FALCON DOES THAT SORT OF THING PRETTY WELL.
NRIN, YOU MISSED A BATTLE!
YOU'RE UNHURT?
THE BOTH OF US, YES.
I HATED BEING HERE, WAITING.
THEN DO NOT GET SHOT NEXT TIME...
YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE DEATH STAR AT YAVIN, RIGHT?
SOLO AND THE FALCON SAVED LUKE SKYWALKER AND THE REBELLION DOING LESS THAN TODAY.
QUESTION IS, HOW DID THE FALCON GET HERE?
HOW DID TYCHO GET HERE?
I'M A BIT MORE CONCERNED WITH OUR GETTING OUT OF HERE.
THAT WAS PRINCESS LEIA. BUT I THOUGHT SHE WAS A PRISONER?
ARRORRORONK?
WHICH LEAVES THE QUESTION OF WHO IS IN THE Y-WING WITH TYCHO, YOU KNOW, WORKING FOR THE EMPIRE WAS NEVER THIS CONFUSING.

LEIA? BUT, MMMMFFFHHHH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?
I WAS COMING TO RESCUE YOU?
YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING THE WHOLE OPERATION.
YOU WERE THE DECOY AND IF YOU'RE HERE, ISARD WILL KNOW I AM, TOO.
CHOP THE THRUSTERS BACK, LEIA. WE FOLLOWED THE FOLKS WHO KIDNAPPED WINTER, WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME FROM COMING IF I HAD, THOUGH.
YOU'RE SAYING YOU COULDN'T STAND TO BE APART FROM ME, CAPTAIN SOLO?
ME? NEVER. I JUST KNOW HOW YOU'D BE IF WINTER GOT HURT.
GOOD ANSWER, HAN. NOT THE *BEST* ANSWER, THOUGH.
WELL, I GUESS I DID MISS YOU A LITTLE.
NOW, THAT IS DEFINITELY A BETTER ANSWER.


WE'RE DOWN, WE'RE SAFE. WITHOUT YOUR SHOOTING, WE'D HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY VAPED.
YOU'RE WELCOME, TYCHO. WITHOUT YOUR FLYING, WE'D BE TWO ALDERAANIANS HEADED FOR THE GRAVEYARD.
I'M NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO MAKING THAT LAST TRIP HOME FOR A GOOD LONG TIME.
YOU'RE A BETTER PILOT THAN YOU ARE A REALIST. OUR JOBS DON'T MAKE LONG LIFE VERY LIKELY.
IT'S NOT THE LENGTH OF LIFE, BUT HOW MUCH YOU DO WITH IT THAT COUNTS.
THAT'S A PHILOSOPHY I CAN AGREE WITH.
YOU CAN LET ME DOWN NOW.
I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF LETTING YOU DOWN.
YOU HAVEN'T, SO FAR, BUT I WOULD LIKE MY FEET ON THE GROUND AGAIN.
WHY?
SO I CAN STAND ON MY TOES AND DO THIS.

DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE WAITING FOR YOU BACK HOME, CAPTAIN?
NOPE. SOMEDAY I'LL FIND THE RIGHT WOMAN, PROBABLY FROM CORELLIA-- SOMEONE SMART, RELIABLE...
LIKE YOUR SISTER, THEN...
I NEVER REALLY KNEW HER. SHE WAS TEN YEARS OLDER, AND LEFT WHEN I WAS SEVEN...
MY PARENTS DIDN'T TALK ABOUT HER AT ALL. SHE BROKE MY MOM'S HEART WHEN SHE LEFT.
SHE REGRETTED HOW SHE LEFT AND PLANNED TO MAKE AMENDS, BUT THEN SHE LEARNED OF THE STATION FIRE AND THOUGHT ALL OF YOU WERE DEAD.
ARE YOU AND SHE HAPPY?
VERY MUCH SO, AND VERY MUCH IN LOVE. THAT'S WHY I HATE FEELING HELPLESS, NOT KNOWING WHERE SHE IS.
WE'LL FIND HER. I'LL DO WHATEVER IT WILL TAKE-- EVEN ENLIST A JEDI IF THAT'S WHAT WE NEED.
ANYTHING TO GET HER BEFORE ISARD DOES.
DEFINITELY. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE FIRST, THOUGH.
PLANET IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, LOADED WITH PIRATES WHO WANT TO KILL US? HOW TOUGH CAN THAT BE?
FOR ROGUES, NOT A PROBLEM.
LET'S HOPE NO ONE FIGURES OUT A WAY TO MAKE IT A PROBLEM.

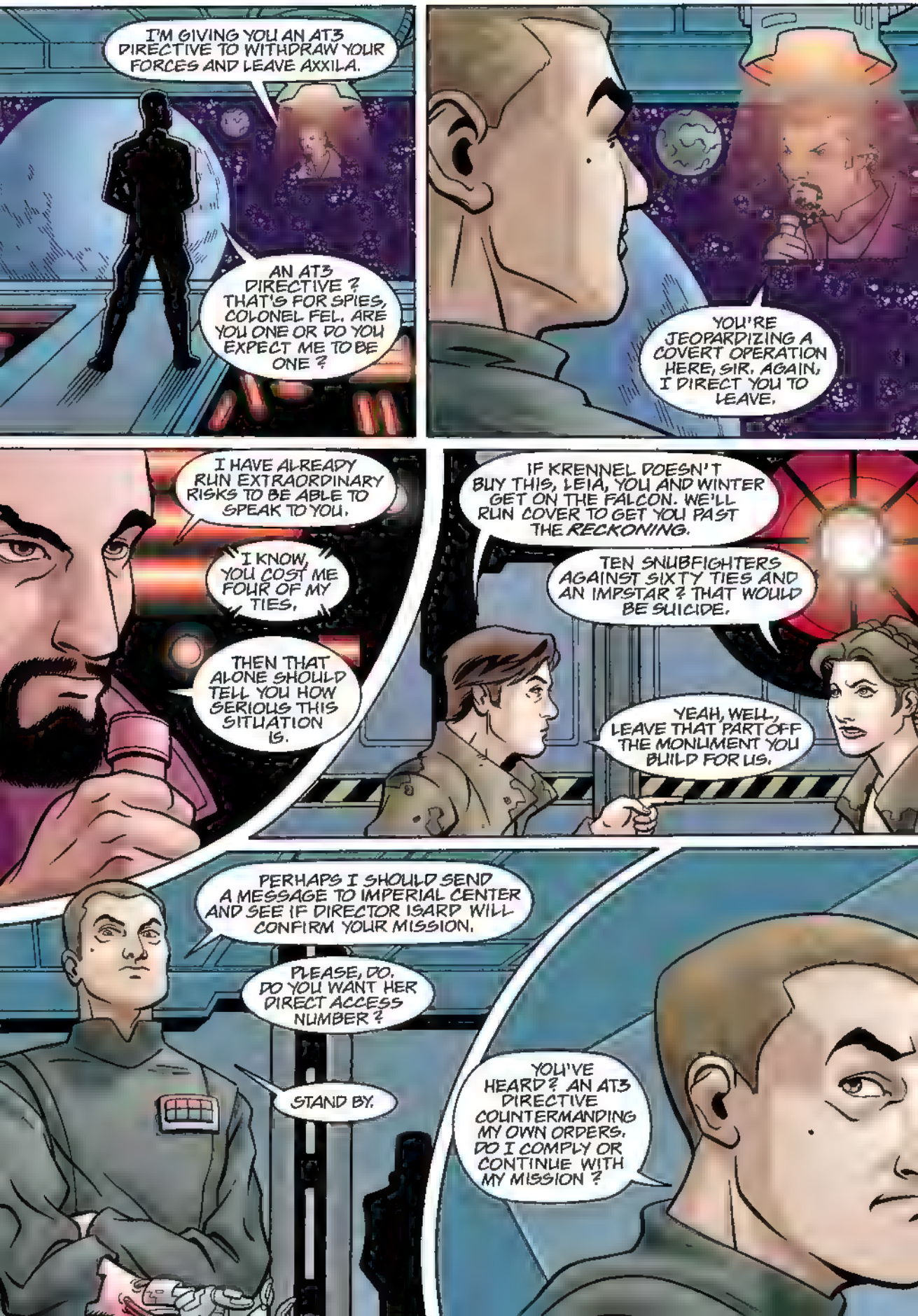

PEOPLE OF AXXILA, I AM ADMIRAL KRENNEL OF THE *RECKONING*. YOU HARBOR TRAITORS TO THE EMPIRE...
YOU ARE SCUM WHO HAVE LONG FESTERED WITHOUT PROPER DISCIPLINE. GIVE ME THE TRAITORS...
...AND I WILL REFRAIN FROM VISITING UPON YOU THE RETRIBUTION YOU MOST ASSUREDLY DESERVE.


WEDGE, IT'S BAD OUT HERE. LOTS OF TIES SWARMING-- LOOKS LIKE A FULL WING.
EVEN WITH THE PIRATES' HELP, WE COULDN'T FIGHT OUR WAY OUT OF HERE.
WE'VE GONE TO GROUND HERE, JANSON'S TALKING TO THE LOCALS AND I THINK WE'LL BE SAFE.
I COPY. KEEP US INFORMED, WE'LL TRY TO WORK SOMETHING OUT.
AS ORDERED. HOBBIE OUT.
EVEN WITH YOU FLYING, WITH THE MILLENNIUM FALCON UP AND TYCHO IN THAT Y-WING, WE CAN'T GET PAST AN IMPSTAR AND A FULL TIE WING.
JUST SITTING HERE ISN'T MUCH OF AN OPTION.
KRENNEL IS A COMET-COLD KILLER. NEVER SERVED UNDER HIM-- LAST I HEARD HE WAS CUTTING A BLOODY SWATH THROUGH THE UNKNOWN REGIONS, THEN GOT SENT HOME.
KICKED OUT OF THE UNKNOWN REGIONS FOR BEING CRUEL? HE MUST HAVE BEEN VERY BAD.

HE THINKS HIMSELF SHREWD, BUT IS A SLAVE TO REGULATIONS AND FOLLOWS ORDERS EXPLICITLY.
WHEN GIVEN LEEWAY, HE FINDS THE BEST WAY TO APPLY FEAR, SINCE THAT GETS HIM QUICK RESULTS.
YET ANOTHER REASON THE EMPIRE HAS GOT TO GO.
TOO BAD WE CAN'T JUST HAVE SOMEONE ORDER HIM TO GO HOME.
COULD OUR FRIEND HERE DO THAT?
EXPOSE HIS BEING HERE AND GIVE SUCH AN ORDER? NOT POSSIBLE.
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY, BUT I NEED A SECURE IMP COMLINK.
WHERE WILL YOU GET ONE OF THOSE?
YOU GOT A TRACTOR BEAM ON THE FALCON?
GOT ONE CRATED IN THE HOLD. I GUESS WE COULD MOUNT IT IN THE EMPTY MISSILE BAY AND RIG IT UP.
LT. CELCHU, IS YOUR Y-WING READY TO GO?
HUH? YEAH, I GUESS SO.
CHEWIE, WE'RE MOUNTING THAT TRACTOR BEAM IN THE MISSILE BAY.
AWHRROOWAK?
OKAY, YOU'RE MOUNTING IT IN THERE. HURRY.
I AM PLEASED TO HELP, IF YOU WISH.
ORRONCCA?
YES, I DO KNOW WHICH END OF HYDROSPANNER IS WHICH.

ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE FLYING, COLONEL, INSTEAD OF SHOOTING?
YOU THINK I'M THAT BAD A SHOT?
AH, NO, SIR, I, AH...
RELAX. THIS ISN'T CARIDA. AND I WANT YOU FLYING BECAUSE I'M NOT FLIGHT-QUALIFIED ON A Y-WING.
WE'RE SET, HAN. WE'LL DROP IT, YOU RETRIEVE.
THEY COME IN QUARTETS, SO YOU'LL HAVE YOUR PICK.
AND WE'LL PICK THE REST OFF.
FOUR ON MY REAR SCOPE.
LEAD IS TO THE RIGHT OF THE FORMATION...
... SO I WANT TO ROLL LEFT TO EVADE, MAKING HIM CUT ACROSS HIS FLIGHT'S FIRING LINES TO PURSUE. I REMEMBER.
UNIDENTIFIED Y-WING, YOU ARE ORDERED TO SET DOWN...
...IMMEDIATELY AND ST... BZZPT
GOT HIM. YOUR CATCH, HAN.
CUTTING THRUST, REPULSORLIFT COILS ENGAGED.
GOT HIM. BETTER PASS THAN YOU EVER GAVE ME IN ACADEMY ZONEBALL GAMES, SOONTIR.
BETTER CATCH THAN YOU EVER MADE, TOO.

GREAT SHOT, LEIA.
YOURS AS WELL, WEDGE.
MY SCOPES ARE CLEAR.
LET'S TAKE IT HOME AND SEE IF THIS PLAN WILL WORK.
SO FAR, SO GOOD. PILOT'S STILL ALIVE.
GOOD THING THE SHOCK PUT HIM OUT SO HE COULDN'T SABOTAGE ANYTHING.
THANKS, CHEWBACCA, I'VE GOT POWER AGAIN.
ARROWNK!
I DO TOO THANK YOU FOR THINGS.
I'D FEEL BETTER ABOUT THIS, BUT I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF AN AT3 DIRECTIVE.
I'D FEEL BETTER ABOUT THIS IF YOU HAD.
THIS IS COLONEL SOONTIR FEL, CALLING THE RECKONING. GIVE ME ADMIRAL KRENNEL...


I'M GIVING YOU AN AT3 DIRECTIVE TO WITHDRAW YOUR FORCES AND LEAVE AXXILA.
AN AT3 DIRECTIVE ? THAT'S FOR SPIES, COLONEL FEL. ARE YOU ONE OR DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BE ONE ?
YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING A COVERT OPERATION HERE, SIR. AGAIN, I DIRECT YOU TO LEAVE.
I HAVE ALREADY RUN EXTRAORDINARY RISKS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO YOU.
I KNOW, YOU COST ME FOUR OF MY TIES.
THEN THAT ALONE SHOULD TELL YOU HOW SERIOUS THIS SITUATION IS.
IF KRENNEL DOESN'T BUY THIS, LEIA, YOU AND WINTER GET ON THE FALCON. WE'LL RUN COVER TO GET YOU PAST THE *RECKONING*.
TEN SNUBFIGHTERS AGAINST SIXTY TIES AND AN IMPSTAR ? THAT WOULD BE SUICIDE.
YEAH, WELL, LEAVE THAT PART OFF THE MONUMENT YOU BUILD FOR US.
PERHAPS I SHOULD SEND A MESSAGE TO IMPERIAL CENTER AND SEE IF DIRECTOR ISARD WILL CONFIRM YOUR MISSION.
PLEASE, DO. DO YOU WANT HER DIRECT ACCESS NUMBER ?
STAND BY.
YOU'VE HEARD ? AN AT3 DIRECTIVE COUNTERMANDING MY OWN ORDERS. DO I COMPLY OR CONTINUE WITH MY MISSION ?

AN AT3 DIRECTIVE IS NOT DEBATABLE.
BUT FEL IS NOT AN AGENT.
WE DO NOT KNOW THAT. I DO KNOW I DO NOT QUESTION HIS LOYALTY. DO YOU?
I HAVE BEEN GIVEN NO CAUSE TO, NO.
AT3 DIRECTIVE RECEIVED AND WILL BE COMPLIED WITH. LUCK WITH YOUR MISSION, FEL.
THANK YOU, SIR. FEL OUT.
ADMIRAL, I HAVE A FLIGHT CRUISER COMING UP FROM AXXILA. PIRATE MARKINGS.
HELM, BRING US ABOUT TO A HEADING OF 217 MARK 23. GUNS, I WANT A FIRING SOLUTION NOW!
LET IT RUN, ADMIRAL.
WHAT?
FEL COULD BE ON THAT SHIP. IT RAN AFTER YOUR COMPLIANCE. DO NOT MAKE A MISTAKE NOW. LET IT RUN, AND TAKE ME BACK TO IMPERIAL CENTER.

WELL, THE OLD MAN MADE GOOD HIS PROMISE TO LET ME CLEAR OF THIS ROCK...
LOOKS AS IF HE WAS NOT BLUFFING ON THAT COUNT, HIS POWER HAS NOT WANED AS FAST AS THAT OF THE EMPIRE.
AND IF THIS CACHE OF HIS CHECKS OUT, HE WILL HAVE BOUGHT MY SERVICES... FOR A TIME.
CAPTAIN, WE ARE CLEAR OF THE PLANET AND CAN GO TO LIGHTSPEED WHENEVER YOU WISH.
GO TO LIGHTSPEED *NOW*, HELM. NO SENSE WASTING TIME HERE.
PESTAGE BETTER HAVE MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM, THOUGH, OR HE'LL FIND HIMSELF IN MORE TROUBLE THAN HE IS NOW.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WOULD FIND YOU HERE.
I HAVE EVER BEEN LOYAL TO THE THRONE.
I HAVE NEVER HEARD LOYAL USED AS A SYNONYM FOR COVET BEFORE.
THIS FROM THE MAN WHO PLACED HIMSELF ON IT AND NOW DEALS WITH THE ENEMY ?

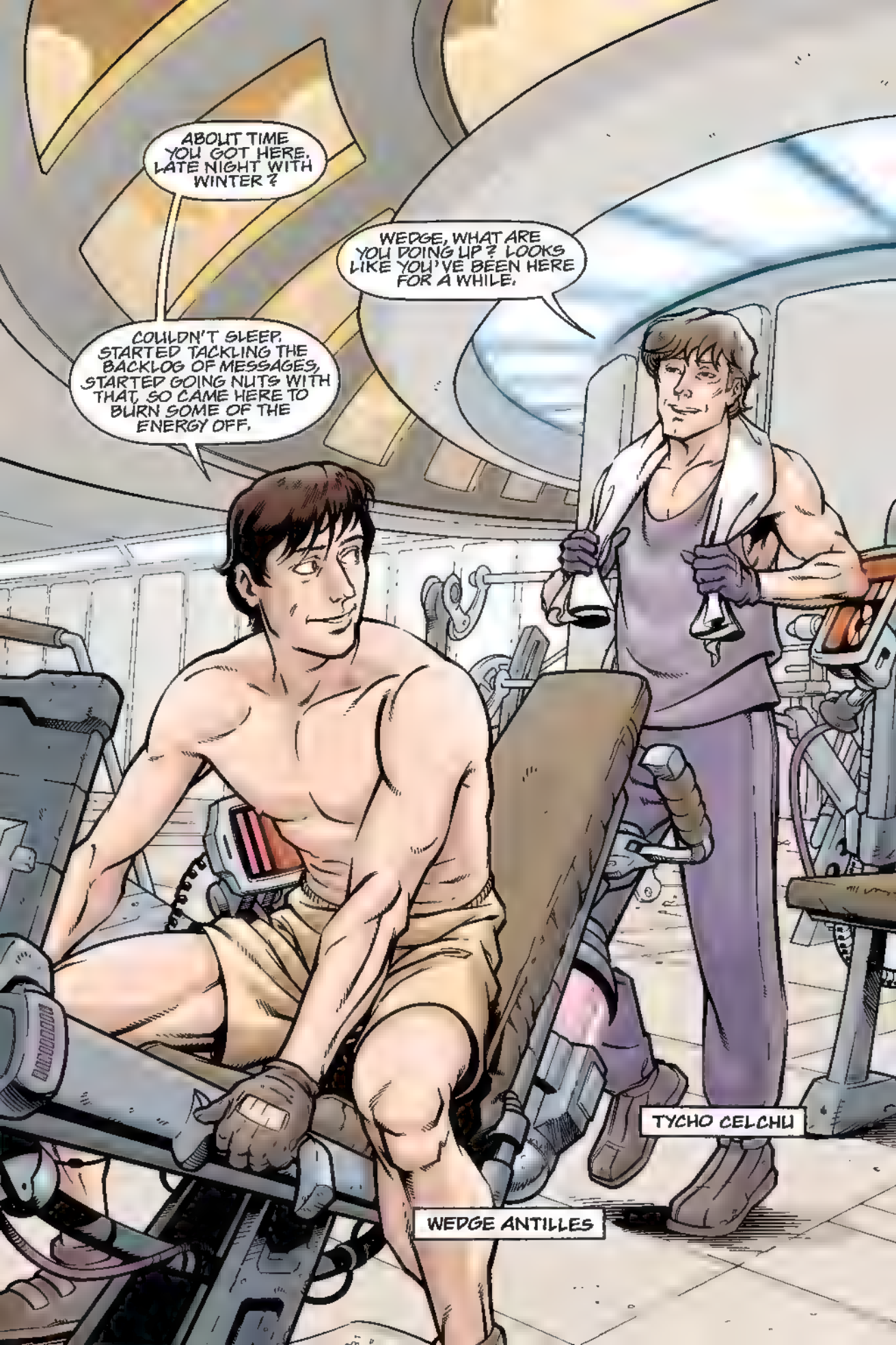
YOU MEAN CONFIRMING FEL'S AT3 DIRECTIVE? AS ONLY YOU WOULD KNOW, YSANNE, I HAD NO IDEA FEL HAD GONE OVER TO THE REBELS.
I DON'T RECALL THAT FACT IN YOUR BRENTAAL BRIEFING.
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE WASN'T ONE OF MY AGENTS.
ME, DOUBT YOUR ABILITY TO PLACE AN AGENT AMONG THE ENEMY?
LEIA ORGANA WAS ON AXXILA. SHE WAS THERE TO MEET YOU.
OH, AND HOW DID SHE GET THERE?
A PIRATE, A KIDNAPPING...
YOU SEE, IT SOUNDS SO ABSURD, EVEN YOU CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
NO ONE ELSE WILL EITHER, MY DEAR.
YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR TREASON. I WILL GET YOU.
YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU DO. GO, I HAVE AN EMPIRE TO RUN.
AND AN EMPIRE TO ABANDON SO I MAY LIVE.
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, I WILL GET YOU.

I COPY, HOBBIE. WE'LL PICK YOU TWO UP ON OUR WAY OUT.
WE'RE PRETTY MUCH GOOD TO GO. THE COLONEL WILL TAKE LEIA'S X-WING, AND NRIN IS OKAY TO FLY.
GOOD ENOUGH.
YOU WANT ME FLYING THE Y-WING BACK?
HARD TO THROW AWAY GOOD EQUIPMENT.
OKAY, I'LL TELL WINTER SHE SHOULD JUST SHIP IN THE FALCON.
WAIT. WE NEVER CHECKED THE HYPERDRIVE ON IT. PIRATES LIKELY HAVE IT PATCHED TOGETHER.
DIAGNOSTICS SEEMED OKAY ON IT...
PIRATES PROBABLY SCREWED THAT SYSTEM UP, TOO.
I'M WILLING TO CHANCE IT, WEDGE.
I'M NOT. PULL THE MEMORY CORES FROM IT. YOU'LL HAVE TO SHIP HOME WITH HAN.
IF YOU INSIST, SIR.
CONSIDER IT AN ORDER.
YOU NOTICE HOW WE GET PULLED FROM PIRATE HUNTING FOR ESCORT DUTY, AND STILL NAIL THE PIRATES?
THAT'S ROGUE SQUADRON, GOING THAT EXTRA LIGHTYEAR TO SAVE THE GALAXY.
TRIM THE CHATTER, ROGUES. WE HAVE A LONG RIDE TO GET HOME...
WEDGE...
WHY SHARE STORIES NOW, WHEN YOU KNOW THEY'LL BE SO MUCH BETTER BY THE TIME YOU GET HOME?
END

Mandatory Retirement | Illustration by John Nadeau

APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AFTER THE BATTLE OF ENDOR . . .

script by Michael A. Stackpole
pencils by Steve Crespo and John Nadeau
inks by Chip Wallace and Jordi Ensign
colors by David Nestelle
letters by Vickie Williams

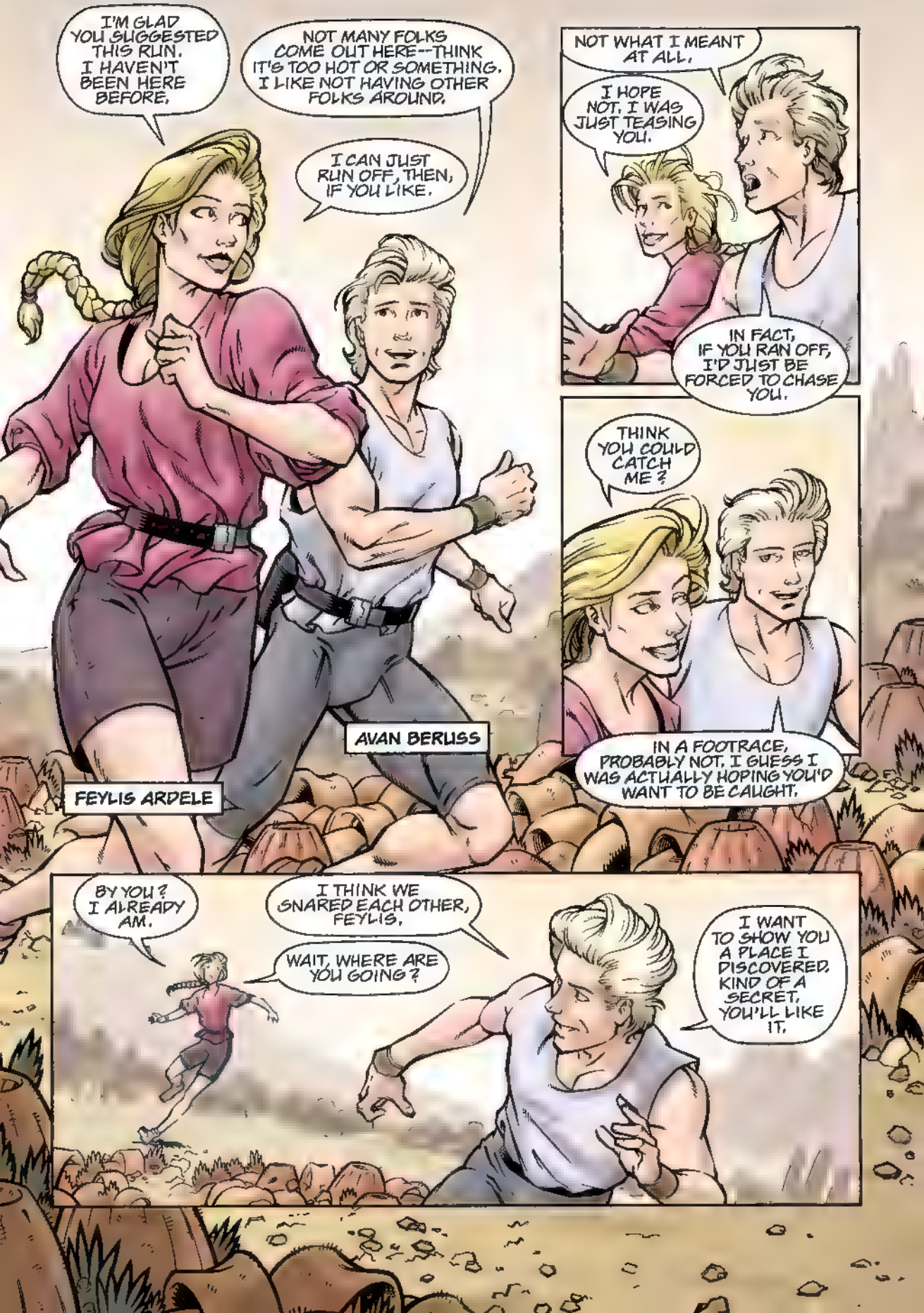

ABOUT TIME YOU GOT HERE. LATE NIGHT WITH WINTER?
COULDN'T SLEEP. STARTED TACKLING THE BACKLOG OF MESSAGES, STARTED GOING NUTS WITH THAT, SO CAME HERE TO BURN SOME OF THE ENERGY OFF.
WEDGE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP? LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR A WHILE.
TYCHO CELCHU
WEDGE ANTILLES

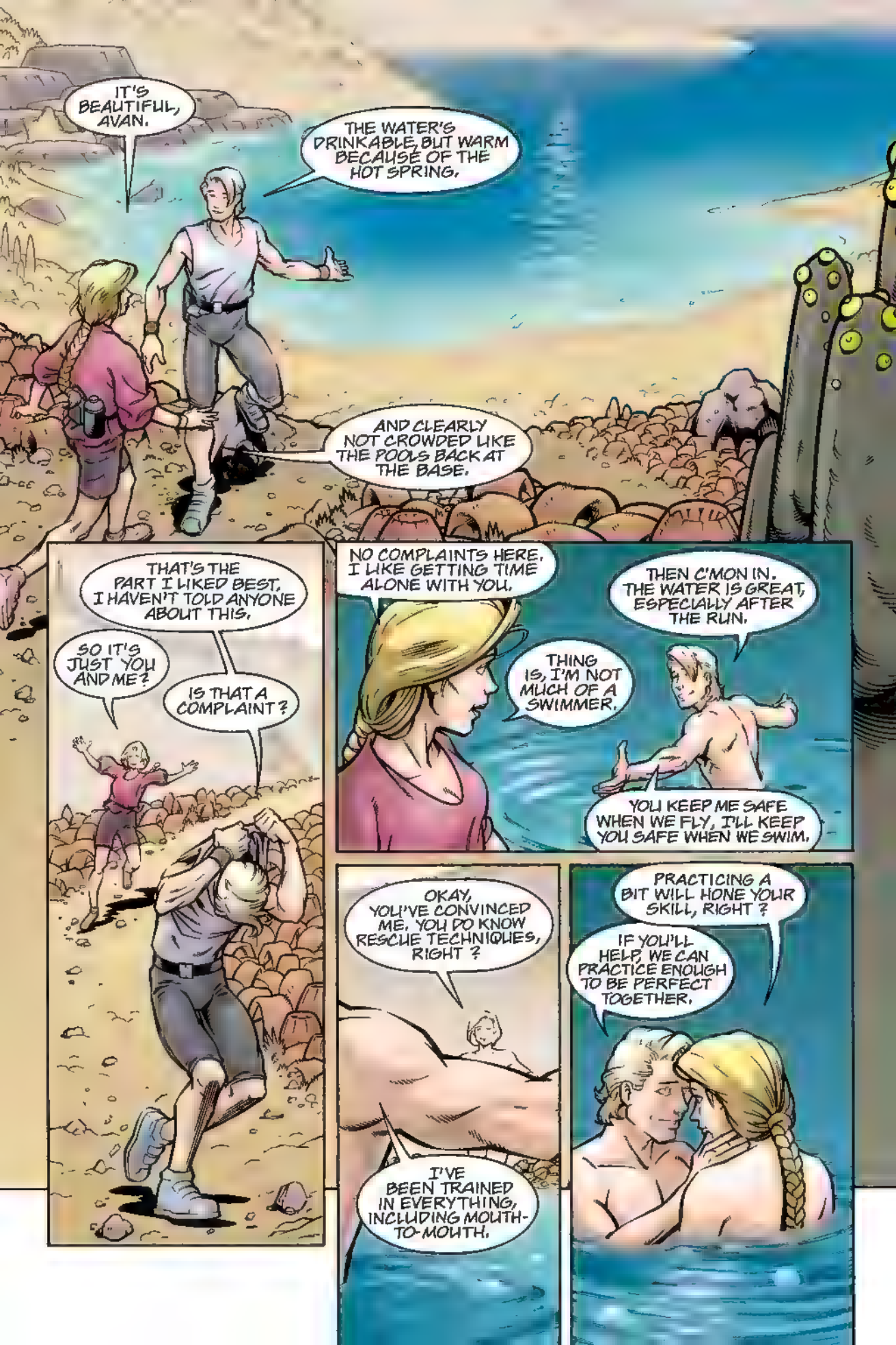
ANYTHING INTERESTING IN YOUR MESSAGES?
ASIDE FROM THE MARRIAGE PROPOSALS, YOU MEAN?
I KEEP TELLING YOU, IT'S THAT IMPERIAL WANTED POSTER. YOU LOOK HANDSOME.
YOU'RE JUST ANGRY THEY USED YOUR ACADEMY HOLO ON YOURS.
IT'S NOT A GOOD IMAGE OF ME. BUT THE WOMEN, THEY JUST LOVE YOU FOR THE REWARD.
YEAH, THAT'S PROBABLY IT. I DID HAVE A MESSAGE FROM SOME FOLKS WHO WANT ME TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT OF THE NEW REPUBLIC.
WE HAVE ELECTIONS? DO WE GET TO VOTE?
WE WILL. I GATHER THEY THINK I'M A GOOD LEADER.
WELL, THEY'RE CLEARLY NOT RATIONAL.
THEY SUGGESTED YOU AS MY RUNNING MATE.
RATIONALITY IS SO OVERRATED IN A CONSTITUENCY, AFTER ALL.
POLITICS ISN'T FOR ME. BEFORE I BECAME A PILOT, I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE AN ARCHITECT.
C'MON, WEDGE, THIS WAR HAS HELPED US DEVELOP THE SKILLS WE'D NEED TO LEAD A NATION.
TYCHO, THE SKILLS WE HAVE DEVELOPED RUN STRONGLY TOWARD BREAKING THINGS.
YOU HAVE A POINT THERE...
BUT, YOU KNOW, I KINDA LIKE BREAKING THINGS.
GOOD, BECAUSE WE HAVE A LOT MORE BREAKING TO DO BEFORE THE EMPIRE'S THROUGH.
TRUE. SO I TAKE IT YOU GOT NOTHING FROM YOUR SISTER?
NO. GENERAL CRACKEN SENT A MESSAGE SAYING HE IS LOOKING, BUT NO WORD. WHEN SYAL RAN FROM CORELLIA, MY FOLKS COULDN'T FIND HER. I DOUBT HE WILL.

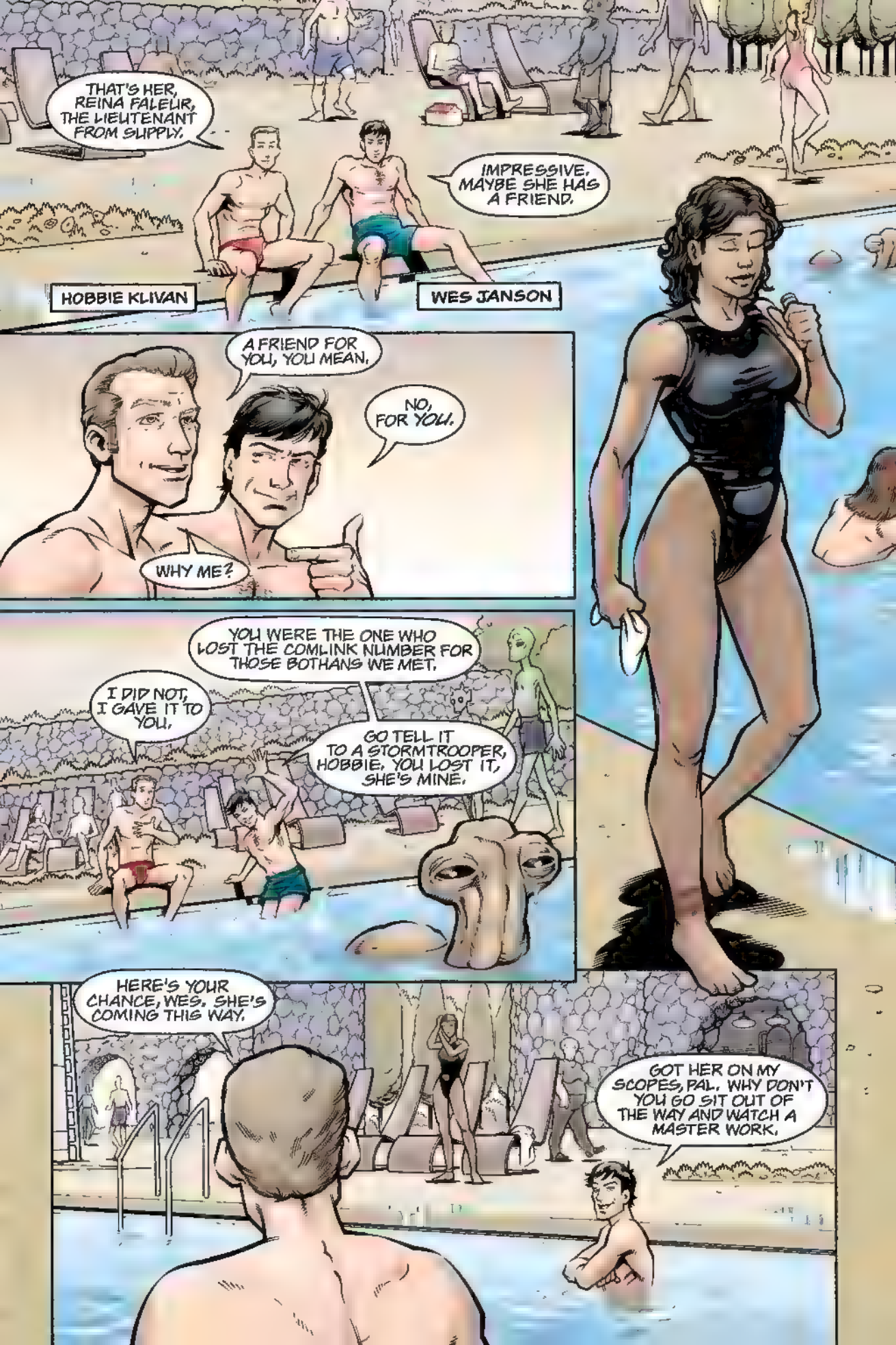
WE'LL FIND HER, WEDGE. WANT TO SET IT AT 65, PLEASE.
65 IT IS. WE HAVE TO, TYCHO. IF ISARD GETS HER...
WE WON'T LET IT HAPPEN, WEDGE.
WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES WE NEED TO FIND HER, AND WAITING HERE IS KILLING ME.
AND THIS WEIGHT IS KILLING ME, SURE IT'S ON 65?
YEAH, IT IS. OH, I SEE, XARCCE MUST HAVE LEFT THE GRAVITY COMPENSATOR SET AT THREE.
THREE? UGH. I QUIT.
YOU, QUIT? MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY LATE NIGHT WITH WINTER.
DINNER AND DANCING, YOU SHOULD FIND YOURSELF A DATE AND JOIN US TONIGHT. THE OFFICER'S CLUB HERE ISN'T MUCH, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
MY IDEA OF R&R ACTUALLY INVOLVES GETTING A BIT MORE RACK TIME, NOT WEARING MYSELF OUT, THANKS.
PITY. THERE WAS A WOMAN IN THE QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE ASKING ABOUT YOU.
REALLY?
REALLY. SHE'S CUTE, FROM CHANDRILA. SWIMS A LOT. VERY FIT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE OFFICER'S CLUB YET.
SAY THE WORD AND I'LL SET IT UP.
DO IT. WHO KNOWS WHEN THE NEXT TIME WILL BE THAT I HAVE ANY CHANCE TO HAVE FUN.

IMPERIAL CENTER
I VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE. THINGS ARE MOST GRAVE. SATE PESTAGE HERE, THE MAN WHO THRUST HIMSELF ON TO THE THRONE...
...HAS ENTERED INTO A PACT WITH OUR ENEMIES, THE REBELS, TO TURN THE EMPIRE OVER TO THEM.
YSANNE ISARD
WHAT PROOF HAVE YOU OF THIS TREASON ?
I HAVE DATA FILES FROM CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES...
CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES ? LIES, YOU MEAN.
SOURCES I CARE NOT TO JEOPARDIZE.
YOU DO NOT TRUST US ?
PESTAGE'S CORRUPTION RUNS DEEP. STATE SECURITY IS MY PRIMARY CONCERN, WHICH IS WHY I TELL YOU HE IS A TRAITOR.

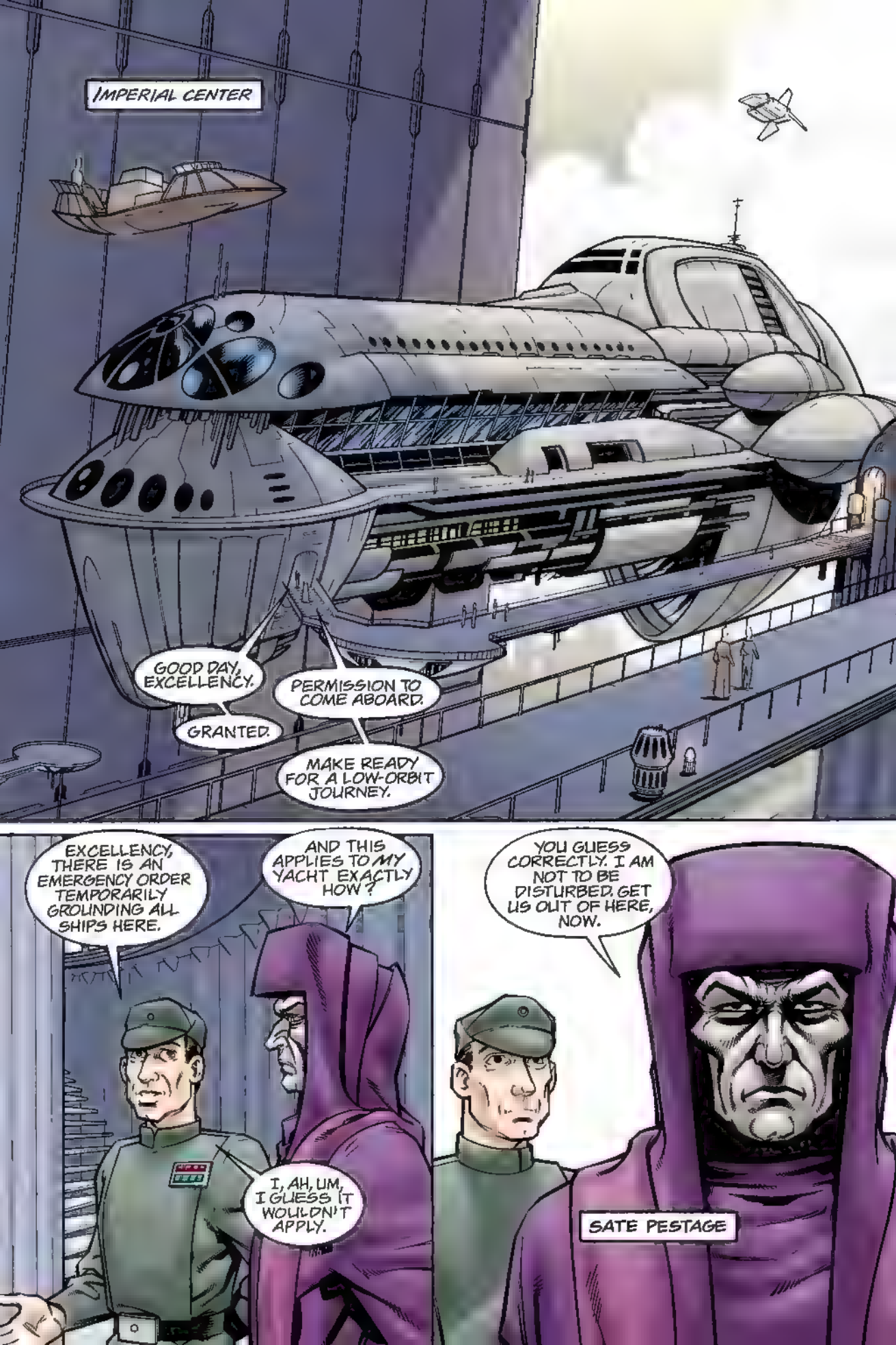
IF PESTAGE IS A TRAITOR, THEN WE ARE THE STATE.
GENERAL CARVIN, YOUR CONCERN IS JUSTIFIABLE, BUT MISPLACED AT THE MOMENT. DIRECTOR ISARD, WHAT IS THE NATURE OF YOUR PROOF?
HE GAVE ORDERS TO AN IMPERIAL NAVAL OFFICER THAT ALLOWED PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA TO ESCAPE FROM IMPERIAL FORCES.
AND YOU SURMISE HE WAS IN A POSITION TO DO THAT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN PRESENT NEGOTIATING WITH THE REBELS?
I KNOW IT.
HIS BUMBLING COST US BRENTAAL-- HIS FIRST COURTING GIFT TO THE REBELS. SOON HE WILL DELIVER IMPERIAL CENTER.
YOU MUST ACT TO STRIP HIS POWER AND PREVENT THIS TRAVESTY.
THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS.
ACCEPTED. PESTAGE'S TREASON WILL STOP NOW.


I'M GLAD YOU SUGGESTED THIS RUN. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE.
NOT MANY FOLKS COME OUT HERE--THINK IT'S TOO HOT OR SOMETHING. I LIKE NOT HAVING OTHER FOLKS AROUND.
I CAN JUST RUN OFF, THEN, IF YOU LIKE.
FEYLIS ARDELE
AVAN BERLISS
NOT WHAT I MEANT AT ALL.
I HOPE NOT. I WAS JUST TEASING YOU.
IN FACT, IF YOU RAN OFF, I'D JUST BE FORCED TO CHASE YOU.
THINK YOU COULD CATCH ME?
IN A FOOTRACE, PROBABLY NOT. I GUESS I WAS ACTUALLY HOPING YOU'D WANT TO BE CAUGHT.
BY YOU? I ALREADY AM.
I THINK WE SNARED EACH OTHER, FEYLIS.
WAIT, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I WANT TO SHOW YOU A PLACE I DISCOVERED. KIND OF A SECRET. YOU'LL LIKE IT.


IT'S BEAUTIFUL, AVAN.
THE WATER'S DRINKABLE, BUT WARM BECAUSE OF THE HOT SPRING.
AND CLEARLY NOT CROWDED LIKE THE POOLS BACK AT THE BASE.
THAT'S THE PART I LIKED BEST. I HAVEN'T TOLD ANYONE ABOUT THIS.
SO IT'S JUST YOU AND ME?
IS THAT A COMPLAINT?
NO COMPLAINTS HERE. I LIKE GETTING TIME ALONE WITH YOU.
THEN C'MON IN. THE WATER IS GREAT, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE RUN.
THING IS, I'M NOT MUCH OF A SWIMMER.
YOU KEEP ME SAFE WHEN WE FLY, I'LL KEEP YOU SAFE WHEN WE SWIM.
OKAY, YOU'VE CONVINCED ME. YOU DO KNOW RESCUE TECHNIQUES, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN TRAINED IN EVERYTHING, INCLUDING MOUTH-TO-MOUTH.
PRACTICING A BIT WILL HONE YOUR SKILL, RIGHT?
IF YOU'LL HELP, WE CAN PRACTICE ENOUGH TO BE PERFECT TOGETHER.


THAT'S HER, REINA FALEUR, THE LIEUTENANT FROM SLIPPY.
IMPRESSIVE. MAYBE SHE HAS A FRIEND.
HOBBIE KLIVAN
WES JANSON
A FRIEND FOR YOU, YOU MEAN.
NO, FOR YOU.
WHY ME?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LOST THE COMLINK NUMBER FOR THOSE BOTHANS WE MET.
I DID NOT, I GAVE IT TO YOU.
GO TELL IT TO A STORMTROOPER, HOBBIE. YOU LOST IT, SHE'S MINE.
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE, WES. SHE'S COMING THIS WAY.
GOT HER ON MY SCOPES, PAL. WHY DON'T YOU GO SIT OUT OF THE WAY AND WATCH A MASTER WORK.

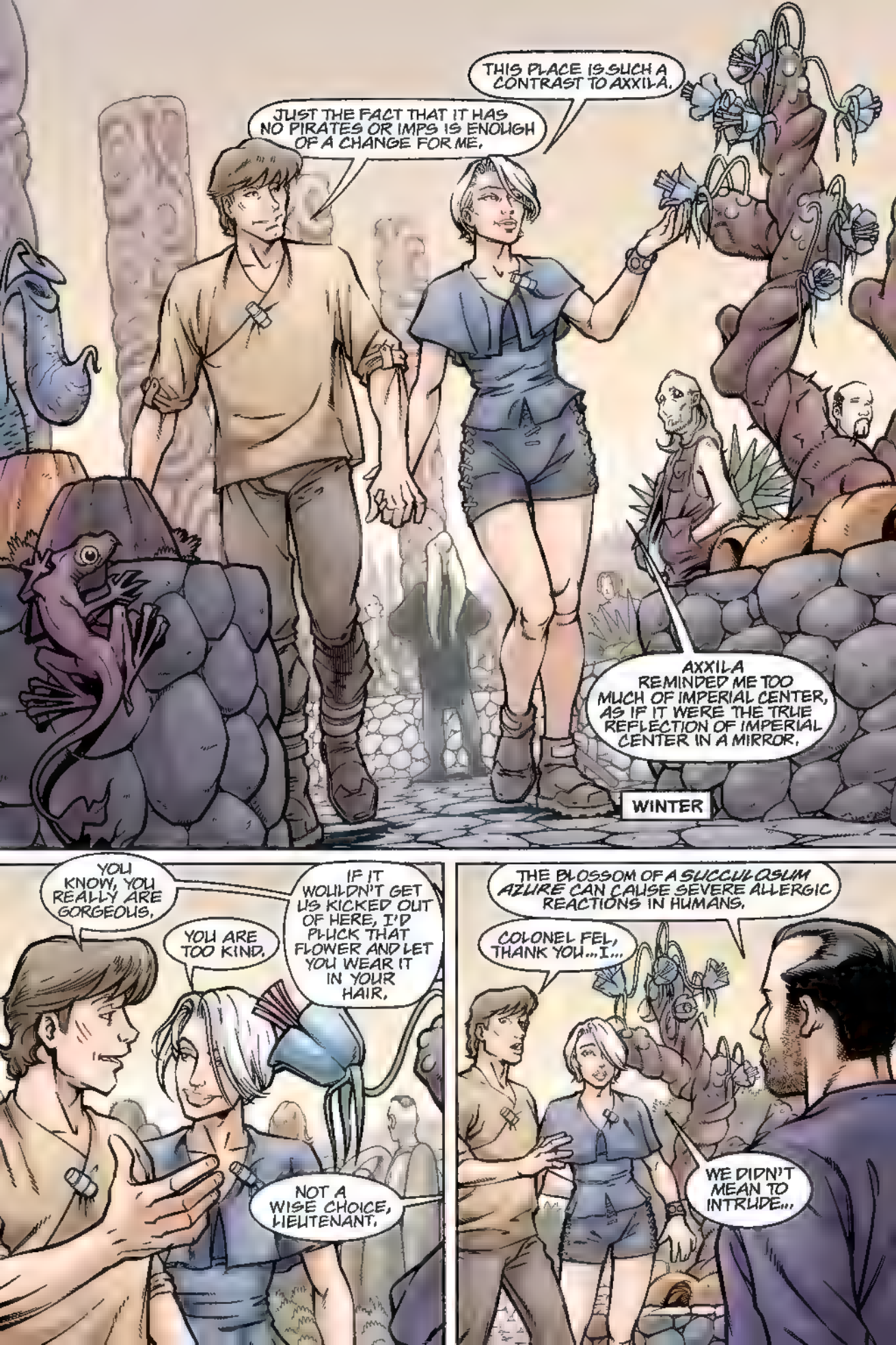
HI. YOU'RE REINA FALEUR, AREN'T YOU? IN SUPPLY, RIGHT?
QUARTERMASTER CORPS, RIGHT. AND YOU ARE...?
WES JANSON, ROGUE SQUADRON. I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WERE FREE FOR LUNCH?
I'M ON MY BREAK NOW. I SKIP LUNCH AND EXERCISE.
I ALREADY HAVE A DATE.
DINNER, THEN?
A DATE? BREAK IT.
WHY NOT?
I COULDN'T.
CAPTAIN ANTILLES WOULDN'T LIKE IT.
WEDGE, HUH?
WEDGE, YES.
IT'S THE WANTED POSTER, RIGHT? ALL THE WOMEN LIKE THAT WANTED POSTER...


IMPERIAL CENTER
GOOD DAY, EXCELLENCY.
PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD.
GRANTED.
MAKE READY FOR A LOW-ORBIT JOURNEY.
EXCELLENCY, THERE IS AN EMERGENCY ORDER TEMPORARILY GROUNDING ALL SHIPS HERE.
AND THIS APPLIES TO MY YACHT EXACTLY HOW?
I, AH, UM, I GUESS IT WOULDN'T APPLY.
YOU GUESS CORRECTLY. I AM NOT TO BE DISTURBED. GET US OUT OF HERE, NOW.
SATE PESTAGE

ISARD GROUNDING SHIPS? SHE ASSUMES WHAT SHE CANNOT PROVE AND HAS ENTICED OTHERS TO ACT AGAINST ME.
FORTUNATELY, SOME OF HER CONSPIRATORS FEAR HER ENOUGH TO WARN ME. I HAVE TIME TO ESCAPE TO MY OWN HOLDINGS, AND FROM THERE, RUN FURTHER.
TO HAVE COME SO FAR, TO HAVE SURVIVED SO LONG, JUST TO LOSE IT ALL TO HER AND HER DEVOTION TO A DEAD MASTER.
STILL, I AM ALIVE, AND THAT IS A VICTORY RIGHT NOW.
EXCELLENCY, WE HAVE ACHIEVED LOW PLANETARY ORBIT.
CAPTAIN, PREPARE ME A LAUNCH. I HAVE BUSINESS TO DISCUSS ON THAT SHIP, AND, ONCE I'M GONE...
YES, EXCELLENCY?
THE YACHT IS YOURS, RUN AS FAR AS YOU CAN AND HIDE.

ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU REALLY WISH TO DO THIS, PLOURR?
HEARD YOU WERE TOUGH IN A FIGHT ON AXXILA.
IT WAS NECESSARY.
SO IS THIS.
XARCCE HUWLA
PLOURR ILO
I HAVE APOLOGIZED ALREADY. IF I HAD KNOWN PLOURR WOULD REACT THIS WAY, I WOULD HAVE SAID NOTHING ABOUT AXXILA.
NRIN VAKIL
GRRRRR.
THWACK!
YOU HAD JUST COME OUT OF BACTA AND WERE DISORIENTED...
NO, I JUST THOUGHT PLOURR WOULD APPRECIATE XARCCE'S STRENGTHS.
IBTISAM
IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT TO PLAY...
YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN, NRIN.
I DO. I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND...
SNAP!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT, NRIN.
WE AREN'T FIGHTING.

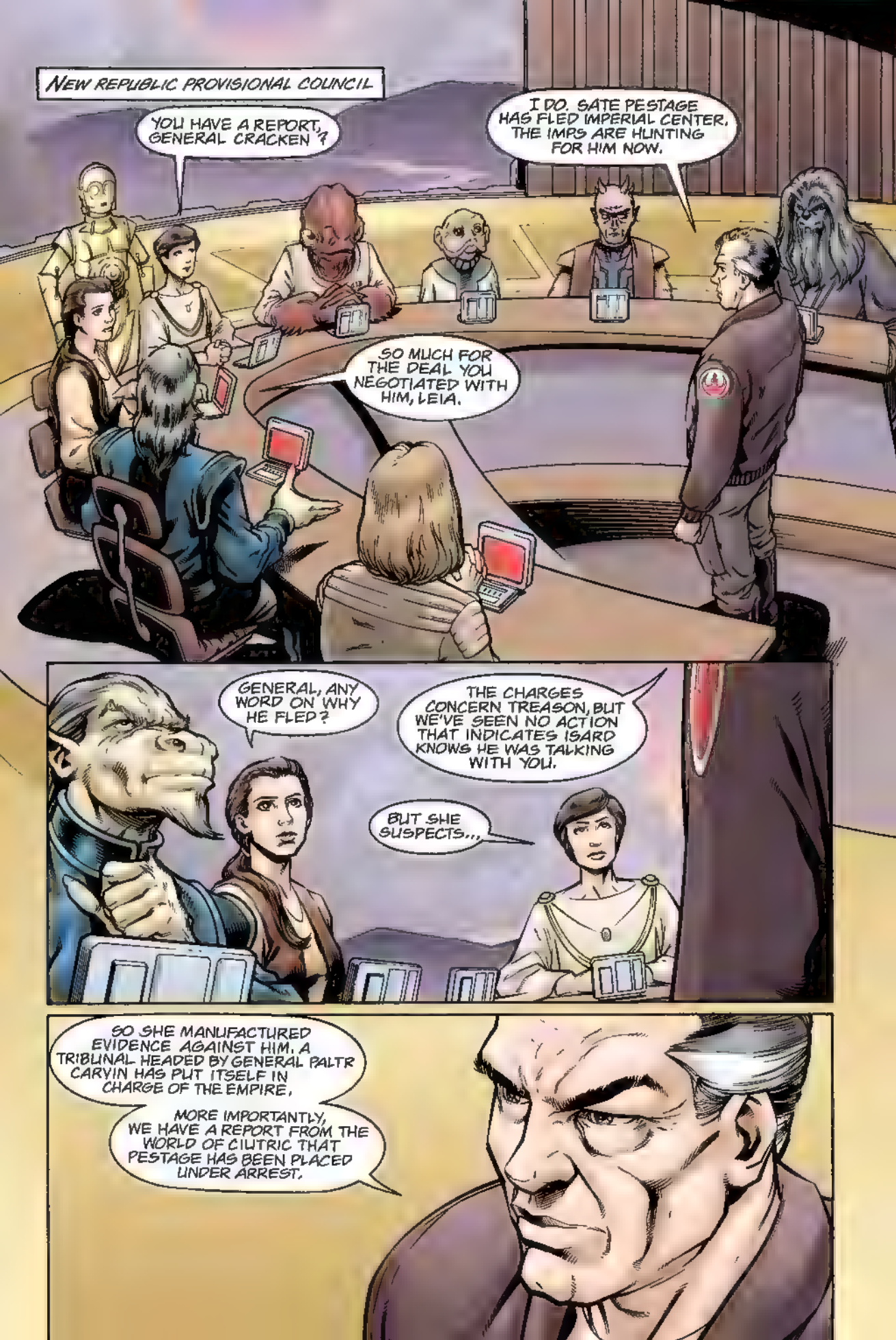
WHATEVER WE'RE DOING, I WANT IT TO STOP. I LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH YOU TOO MUCH TO WASTE IT LIKE THAT.
I FEEL THE SAME WAY. REMARKABLE.
THUMP!
I HAVE YOU NOW.
REMARKABLE THAT TWO PEOPLE OF SPECIES THAT DESPISE EACH OTHER CAN FORM A BOND?
NO, NOT THAT...
REMARKABLE THAT TWO SUCH PEOPLE WOULD BE INSIDE ON A DAY LIKE THIS, WATCHING THIS BARBARIC DISPLAY.
CRACK!
UGNNN...
TYCHO SAID THERE IS AN EXCELLENT PUBLIC GARDEN HERE.
THUMP!
UGNNN...
LET'S GO.
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
WE'LL BRING THEM FLOWERS UPON OUR RETURN. IF THEY'RE AWAKE BY THEN.

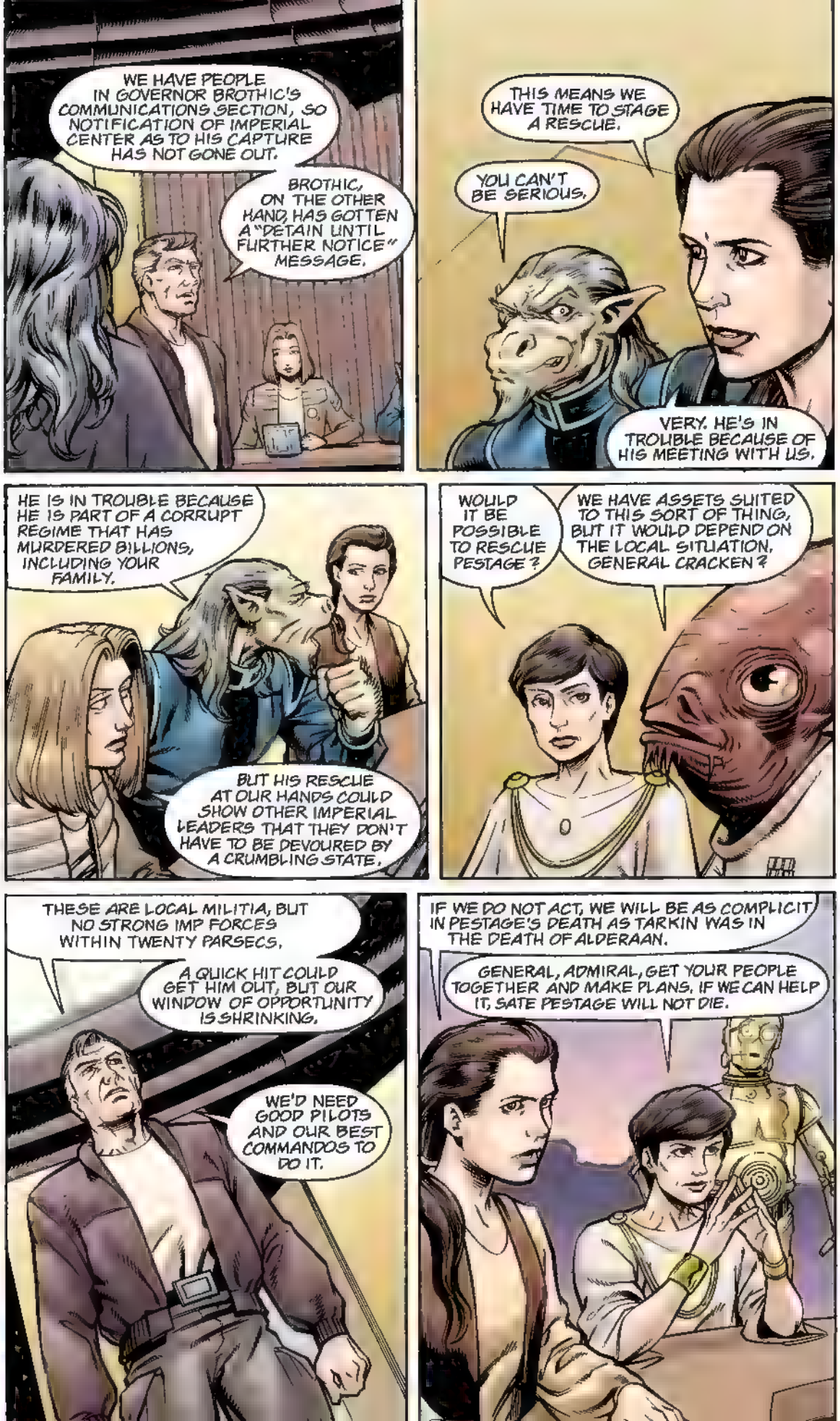

JUST THE FACT THAT IT HAS NO PIRATES OR IMPS IS ENOUGH OF A CHANGE FOR ME.
THIS PLACE IS SUCH A CONTRAST TO AXXILA.
AXXILA REMINDED ME TOO MUCH OF IMPERIAL CENTER, AS IF IT WERE THE TRUE REFLECTION OF IMPERIAL CENTER IN A MIRROR.
WINTER
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY ARE GORGEOUS.
YOU ARE TOO KIND.
IF IT WOULDN'T GET US KICKED OUT OF HERE, I'D PLUCK THAT FLOWER AND LET YOU WEAR IT IN YOUR HAIR.
NOT A WISE CHOICE, LIEUTENANT.
THE BLOSSOM OF A SUCCULOSUM AZURE CAN CAUSE SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTIONS IN HUMANS.
COLONEL FEL, THANK YOU...I...
WE DIDN'T MEAN TO INTRUDE...

INTRUDE? HARDLY. IN FACT, MY SELF-IMPOSED SOLITUDE IS NEITHER GOOD FOR ME OR THE SQUADRON.
FITTING IN ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.
NO. NRIN AND PLOURR ESPECIALLY SEEM TO RESENT ME, HARDLY A SURPRISE, GIVEN ALL BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN THROUGH.
STILL, YOU'RE ONE OF US, NOW.
YES, IT APPEARS I AM, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN YOU ARE THE BEST CHANCE OF FINDING MY WIFE AGAIN.
BUT THERE IS MORE TO YOUR COMING OVER THAN THAT, RIGHT?
YOU MEAN, DID I FINALLY SEE THE EMPIRE THROUGH CLEAR EYES? YES...
I'M READING RESERVATIONS THERE.
FOR SO LONG I SERVED ORDER, THAT TO JOIN THE REBELLION IS NOT EASY. YOU DID NOT HAVE THIS PROBLEM?
ALDERAAN'S BEING REDUCED TO RUBBLE KILLED MY QUALMS.
YES, OF COURSE. I APOLOGIZE FOR THAT.
WHY, YOU HAD NO PART IN THAT.
I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK, THOUGH, THAT IF I HAD BEEN ON THE DEATH STAR I COULD HAVE MODERATED TARKIN. I ALMOST WAS THERE.
HOBBIE AND BIGGS HIJACKING THE *RAND ECLIPTIC* KILLED YOUR CAREER AND PREVENTED THAT APPOINTMENT.
YES, ONE OF THE MANY THINGS THAT HAS BROUGHT US ALL TO THIS POINT... ENOUGH MAUDLIN THOUGHTS, THOUGH. IF YOU HAVE TIME, I WOULD SHOW YOU MY FAVORITE PART OF THE GARDEN.
COME, LET US ENJOY IT TOGETHER, AS FRIENDS SHOULD...

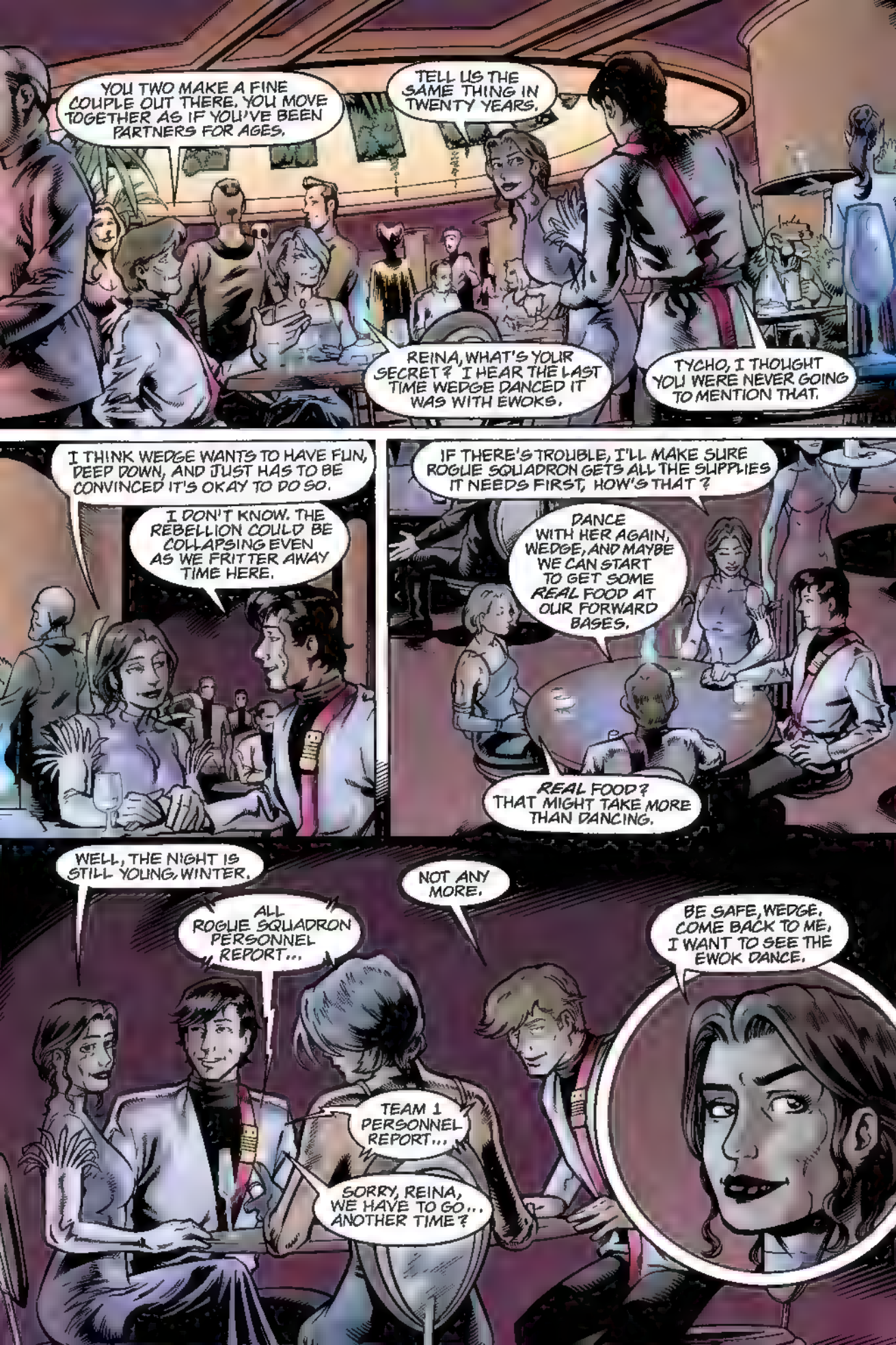
LEONIA TAVIRA
THERE, YOU'RE ON THE WORLD YOU WANTED. OUR BUSINESS IS DONE.
BUT I PAID YOU...
YOU PAY ME A PITTANCE FOR TRANSPORT TO THIS WORLD, BUT YOU GIVE YOUR YACHT TO SOMEONE WHO JUST BROUGHT YOU UP INTO ORBIT. I WANTED THAT YACHT, BUT YOU JUST GAVE IT AWAY.
EXCELLENCY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I WILL BE. YOU, TAVIRA, WILL NOT BE...
YOUR THREATS MEAN NOTHING. YOU'VE RUN FROM POWER, AND YOU KNOW THEY WILL COME AFTER YOU.
SHE'S RIGHT, EXCELLENCY. AN ALERT HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME, GOVERNOR BROTHIC?
FOR THE RIGHT PRICE, SANCTUARY COULD HAVE BEEN YOURS.

EXCELLENCY, THERE IS AN IMPERIAL WARRANT OUT FOR YOUR ARREST.
AND THIS MEANS, BROTHIC ?
CALL ME WHEN YOU PUT A PRICE ON YOUR FREEDOM...
I HAVE THE BEST CELL AVAILABLE SET ASIDE FOR YOU, EXCELLENCY.
AFTER ALL I HAVE DONE FOR YOU THROUGH THE YEARS...
BUT THINK WHAT THE EMPIRE COULD DO TO ME IF I DON'T... PLEASE, DON'T MAKE THIS DIFFICULT.
YOUR EVERY NEED WILL BE ACCOUNTED FOR, EXCELLENCY.
SAVE MY FREEDOM.
I'M SORRY.
YOU ARE, BROTHIC, VERY SORRY...
X14 HERE. RUMORS ARE RIGHT, THE FLOWERS HAVE BLOSSOMED.
BIG BLOSSOM, ONE GUARANTEED TO WIN FIRST PRIZE.


NEW REPUBLIC PROVISIONAL COUNCIL
YOU HAVE A REPORT, GENERAL CRACKEN?
I DO. SATE PESTAGE HAS FLED IMPERIAL CENTER. THE IMPS ARE HUNTING FOR HIM NOW.
SO MUCH FOR THE DEAL YOU NEGOTIATED WITH HIM, LEIA.
GENERAL, ANY WORD ON WHY HE FLED?
THE CHARGES CONCERN TREASON, BUT WE'VE SEEN NO ACTION THAT INDICATES ISARD KNOWS HE WAS TALKING WITH YOU.
BUT SHE SUSPECTS...
SO SHE MANUFACTURED EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM. A TRIBUNAL HEADED BY GENERAL PALTR CARVIN HAS PUT ITSELF IN CHARGE OF THE EMPIRE.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE HAVE A REPORT FROM THE WORLD OF CIUTRIC THAT PESTAGE HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER ARREST.


WE HAVE PEOPLE IN GOVERNOR BROTHIC'S COMMUNICATIONS SECTION, SO NOTIFICATION OF IMPERIAL CENTER AS TO HIS CAPTURE HAS NOT GONE OUT.
BROTHIC, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS GOTTEN A "DETAIN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE" MESSAGE.
THIS MEANS WE HAVE TIME TO STAGE A RESCUE.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.
VERY. HE'S IN TROUBLE BECAUSE OF HIS MEETING WITH US.
HE IS IN TROUBLE BECAUSE HE IS PART OF A CORRUPT REGIME THAT HAS MURDERED BILLIONS, INCLUDING YOUR FAMILY.
BUT HIS RESCUE AT OUR HANDS COULD SHOW OTHER IMPERIAL LEADERS THAT THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE DEVOURED BY A CRUMBLING STATE.
WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO RESCUE PESTAGE?
WE HAVE ASSETS SUITED TO THIS SORT OF THING, BUT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE LOCAL SITUATION, GENERAL CRACKEN?
THESE ARE LOCAL MILITIA, BUT NO STRONG IMP FORCES WITHIN TWENTY PARSECS.
A QUICK HIT COULD GET HIM OUT, BUT OUR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS SHRINKING.
WE'D NEED GOOD PILOTS AND OUR BEST COMMANDOS TO DO IT.
IF WE DO NOT ACT, WE WILL BE AS COMPLICIT IN PESTAGE'S DEATH AS TARKIN WAS IN THE DEATH OF ALDERAAN.
GENERAL, ADMIRAL, GET YOUR PEOPLE TOGETHER AND MAKE PLANS. IF WE CAN HELP IT, SATE PESTAGE WILL NOT DIE.

I HAVEN'T DANCED FOR AGES, AS WELL YOU CAN TELL...
NO, YOU HAVE THE TALENT--YOU KEEP YOUR FEET OUT FROM BENEATH MINE.
YOU'RE CLEARLY NATURALLY TALENTED IN THAT DEPARTMENT, THEN.
YOU LEAD, I FOLLOW. VERY EASY TO DO, WEDGE.
AND FOR OUR NEXT NUMBER...

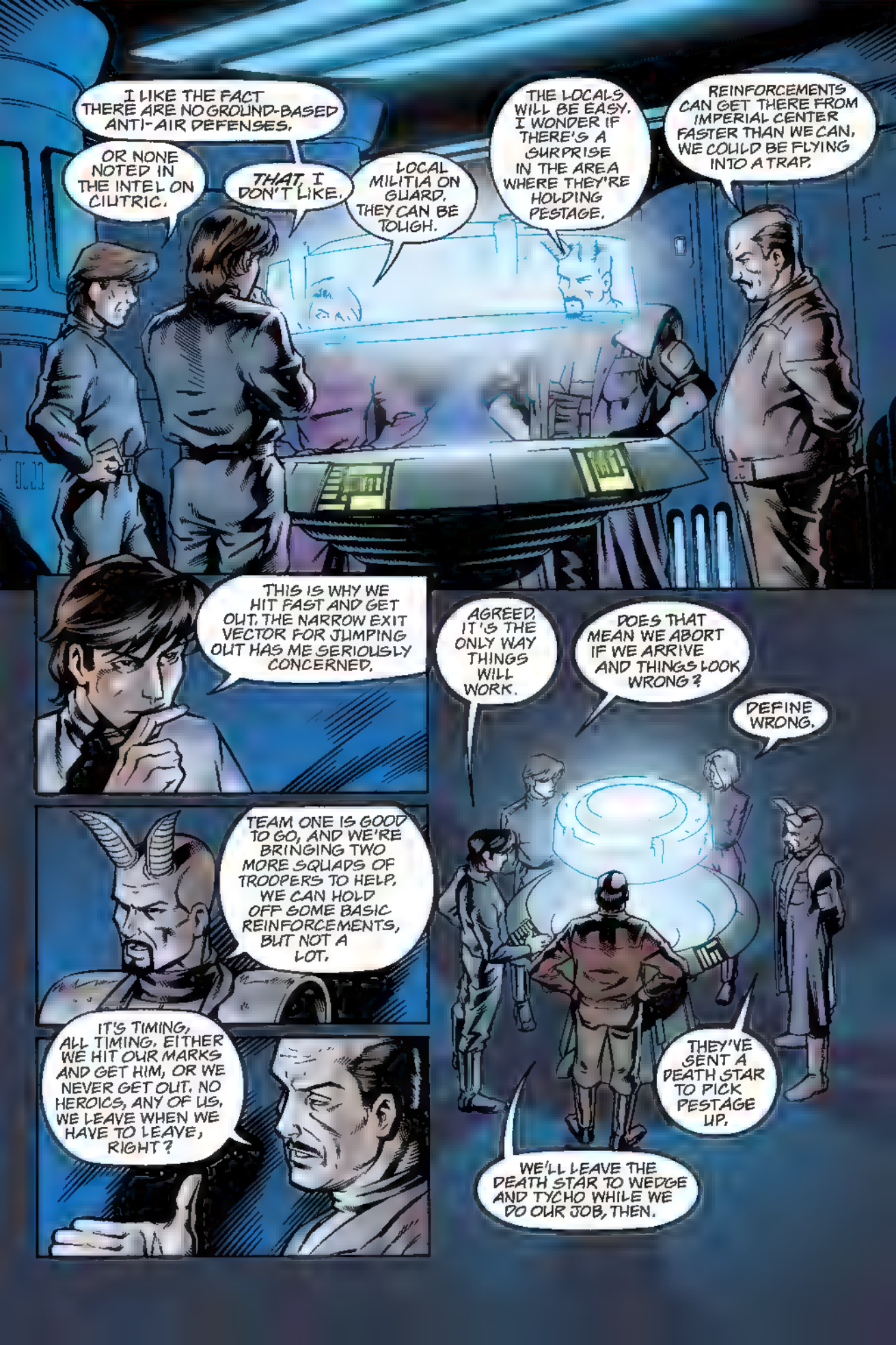

YOU TWO MAKE A FINE COUPLE OUT THERE. YOU MOVE TOGETHER AS IF YOU'VE BEEN PARTNERS FOR AGES.
TELL US THE SAME THING IN TWENTY YEARS.
REINA, WHAT'S YOUR SECRET? I HEAR THE LAST TIME WEDGE DANCED IT WAS WITH EWOKS.
TYCHO, I THOUGHT YOU WERE NEVER GOING TO MENTION THAT.
I THINK WEDGE WANTS TO HAVE FUN, DEEP DOWN, AND JUST HAS TO BE CONVINCED IT'S OKAY TO DO SO.
I DON'T KNOW. THE REBELLION COULD BE COLLAPSING EVEN AS WE FRITTER AWAY TIME HERE.
IF THERE'S TROUBLE, I'LL MAKE SURE ROGUE SQUADRON GETS ALL THE SUPPLIES IT NEEDS FIRST, HOW'S THAT?
DANCE WITH HER AGAIN, WEDGE, AND MAYBE WE CAN START TO GET SOME REAL FOOD AT OUR FORWARD BASES.
REAL FOOD? THAT MIGHT TAKE MORE THAN DANCING.
WELL, THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG, WINTER.
ALL ROGUE SQUADRON PERSONNEL REPORT...
NOT ANY MORE.
BE SAFE, WEDGE. COME BACK TO ME. I WANT TO SEE THE EWOK DANCE.
TEAM 1 PERSONNEL REPORT...
SORRY, REINA, WE HAVE TO GO... ANOTHER TIME?

REPORT TO HEADQUARTERS IMMEDIATELY...
THIS IS A CODE THREE RECALL OF ALL...
ROGUE SQUADRON PERSONNEL, REPEAT...
ALL ROGUE SQUADRON PERSONNEL MUST REPORT IMMEDIATELY...
ROGUE SQUADRON PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR, ADMIRAL. WHAT'S THE MISSION?
LONG RANGE RECON AND RETRIEVAL.
HIGH RISK, I TAKE IT?
MOST LIKELY, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED FOR ROGUE SQUADRON TO BE HERE.

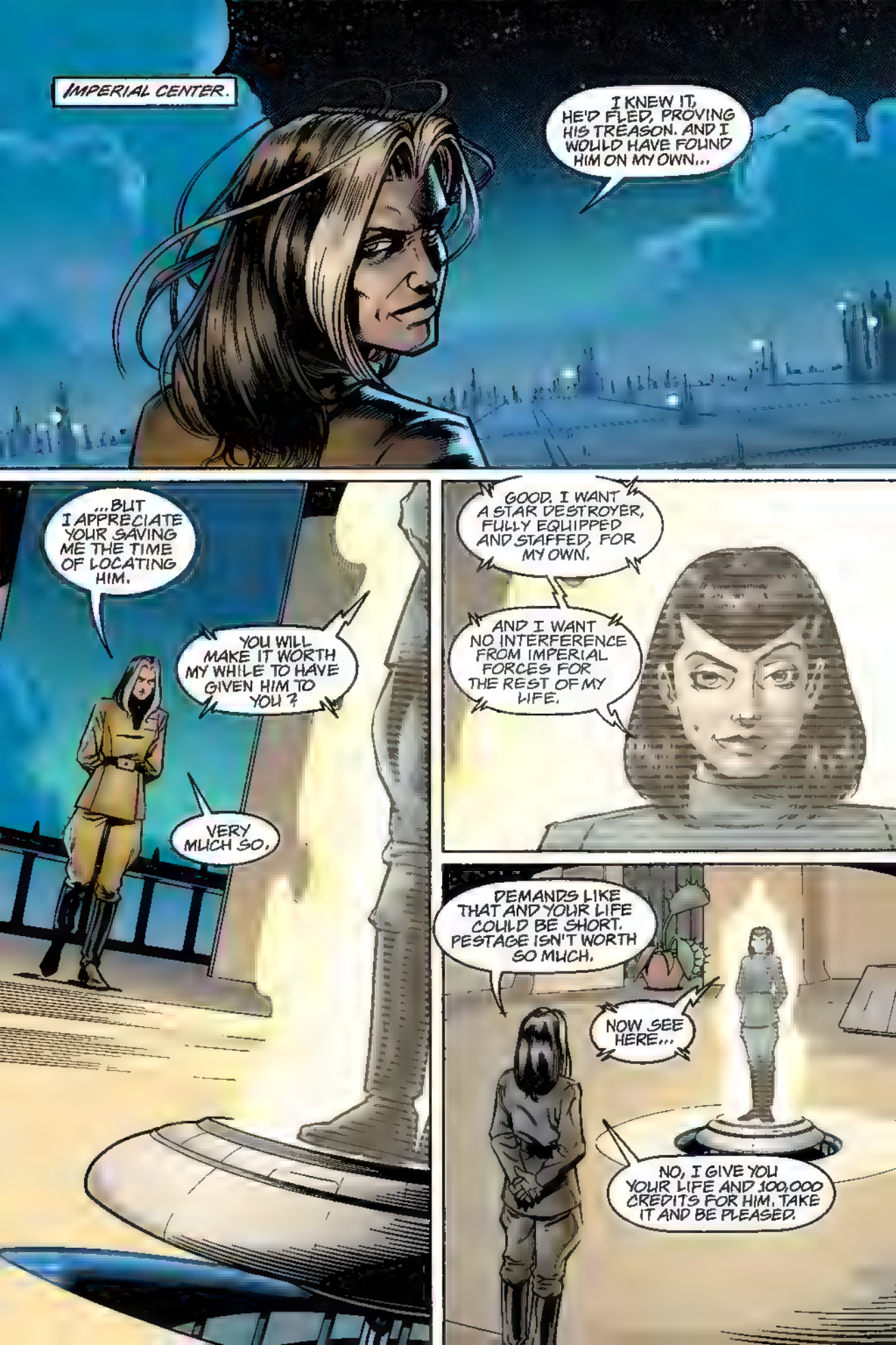
REBEL PROVISIONAL COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS.
THIS IS YOUR PLAN? WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, ADMIRAL ACKBAR...
...YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD MUCH TIME TO PLAN, BUT THE ONLY THING THIS WILL DO IS GET OUR PEOPLE KILLED SAVING IMPERIAL SCUM.

I AM AWARE OF THE WEAKNESSES IN OUR STRATEGY.
TIME IS OUR ENEMY NOW, BUT OUR PERSONNEL ARE OUR STRENGTH. WE HAVE TO GO NOW SO THEY CAN'T REINFORCE CIUTRIC.
I'VE SEEN YOUR ROSTER, YOU WILL WASTE ROGUE SQUADRON ON THIS DUBIOUS OF A MISSION?
THEY'RE NOT IN IT ALONE, WE'VE CHOSEN AN APPROPRIATE FORCE FOR THE MISSION.
THE ROGUES ARE PERFECT SINCE THEY SELDOM SURVIVE MISSIONS.
COUNCILOR FEY'LA, ROGUE SQUADRON HAS ALWAYS DONE WHAT WE HAVE ASKED OF THEM.
NOW WE NEED THEM TO RESCUE SATE PESTAGE, THEY WILL DO THE JOB, ALONG WITH COMMANDO TEAM ONE AND GENERAL SALM'S AGGRESSOR WING.
NO, I SUPPOSE WE DIDN'T KILL ENOUGH OF THEM AT BRENTAAL, DID WE? ALL THIS WASTE FOR PESTAGE.

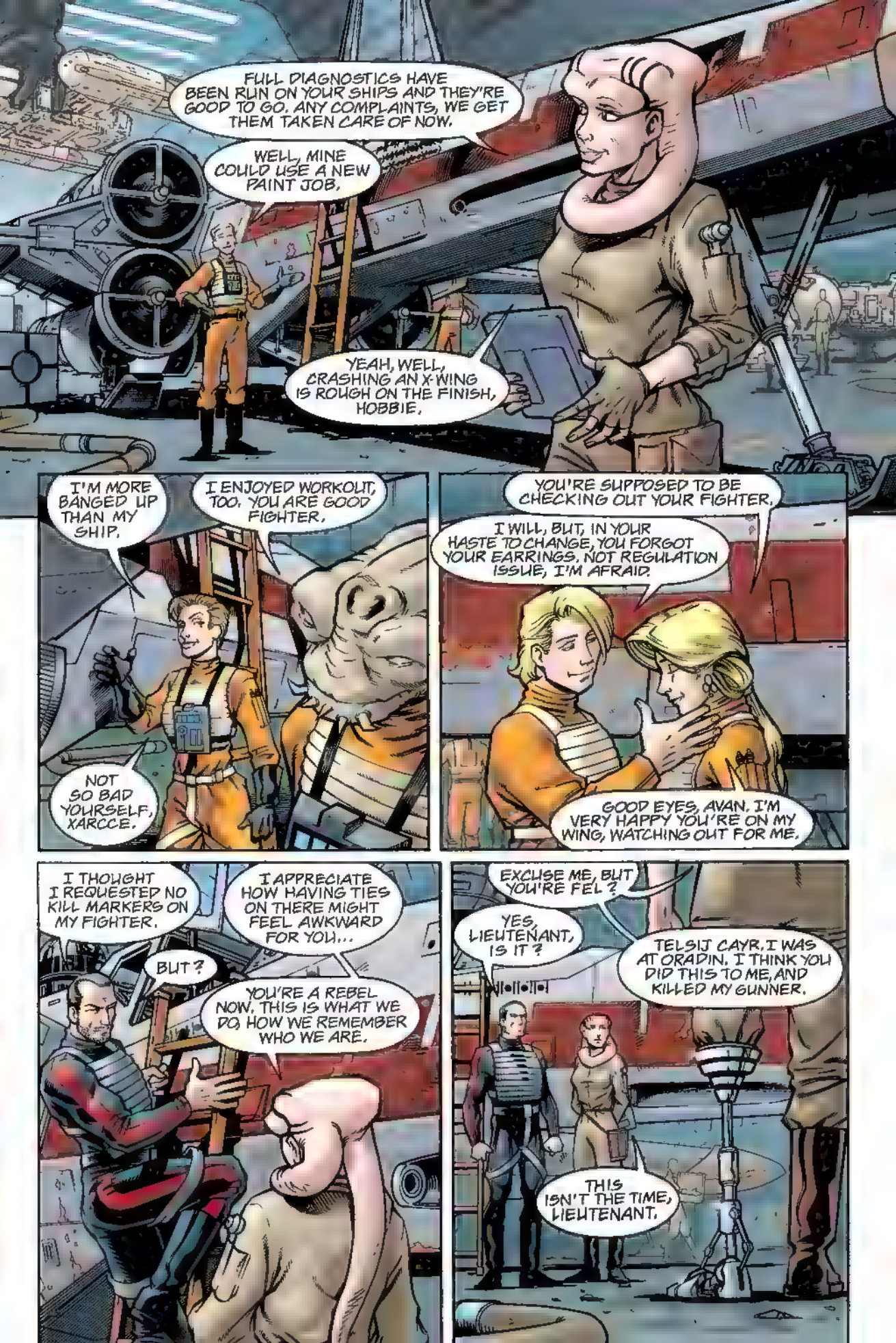
NONE OF US LIKE PESTAGE, BUT HIS DEFECTION CAN HELP US BRING DOWN THE EMPIRE THAT MUCH FASTER.
BY ALLOWING LITTLE POCKETS OF THE EMPIRE TO EXIST UNDER THE CONTROL OF PETTY BUREAUCRATS LIKE PESTAGE.
YOU HUMANS SUFFER BENEATH THE EMPIRE, BUT WE NON-HUMANS HAVE BEEN TREATED LIKE CHATTEL. OUR PEOPLE WILL WONDER...
...DO YOU ACT TO SAVE HIM BECAUSE HE IS VALUABLE TO YOU, OR BECAUSE HE IS A MAN?
I WATCHED THE EMPIRE DESTROY MY WORLD AND MY FRIENDS, AND I SHED MY BLOOD ON ENDOR. I KNOW THE PRICE MANY PAY FOR FREEDOM.
SAVING PESTAGE MEANS THAT PRICE MIGHT BE LOWER FOR SOME PEOPLE IN THE FUTURE. THAT IS A GOAL WORTH FIGHTING FOR.
AROO RONARN SOORU RES...
COUNCILOR KERRITHRARR SAYS...
I KNOW WHAT HE SAYS, AND I BOW TO HIS WISDOM. IN GRANTING PESTAGE FREEDOM, WE PROVE OURSELVES GREATER THAN THE EMPIRE EVER WAS...
I VOTE TO LET THE MISSION GO, AND I JUST HOPE THE PRICE WE PAY IS WORTH IT.


I LIKE THE FACT THERE ARE NO GROUND-BASED ANTI-AIR DEFENSES.
OR NONE NOTED IN THE INTEL ON CILITRIC.
THAT, I DON'T LIKE.
LOCAL MILITIA ON GUARD. THEY CAN BE TOUGH.
THE LOCALS WILL BE EASY. I WONDER IF THERE'S A SURPRISE IN THE AREA WHERE THEY'RE HOLDING PESTAGE.
REINFORCEMENTS CAN GET THERE FROM IMPERIAL CENTER FASTER THAN WE CAN. WE COULD BE FLYING INTO A TRAP.
THIS IS WHY WE HIT FAST AND GET OUT. THE NARROW EXIT VECTOR FOR JUMPING OUT HAS ME SERIOUSLY CONCERNED.
AGREED. IT'S THE ONLY WAY THINGS WILL WORK.
DOES THAT MEAN WE ABORT IF WE ARRIVE AND THINGS LOOK WRONG?
DEFINE WRONG.
TEAM ONE IS GOOD TO GO, AND WE'RE BRINGING TWO MORE SQUADS OF TROOPERS TO HELP. WE CAN HOLD OFF SOME BASIC REINFORCEMENTS, BUT NOT A LOT.
IT'S TIMING, ALL TIMING. EITHER WE HIT OUR MARKS AND GET HIM, OR WE NEVER GET OUT. NO HEROICS, ANY OF US. WE LEAVE WHEN WE HAVE TO LEAVE, RIGHT?
THEY'VE SENT A DEATH STAR TO PICK PESTAGE UP.
WE'LL LEAVE THE DEATH STAR TO WEDGE AND TYCHO WHILE WE DO OUR JOB, THEN.

ONLY ONE DEATH STAR? THEN WE'LL BE READY TO SAVE YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT.
AND I GET THE FEELING THERE'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF SAVING NEEDED HERE.
AGREED.
IMPERIAL REINFORCEMENT IS THE ONLY REAL SURPRISE WE CAN FACE. EITHER WE'LL KNOW IT WHEN WE COME IN, OR WE'LL BE AMBUSHED.
THEY HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT US TO ATTEMPT A RESCUE, SO CHANCES ARE THEY WON'T BE SETTING UP AN AMBUSH.
US POPPING IN ON THEIR ATTEMPT TO PULL PESTAGE OUT ISN'T GOING TO BE TOO PRETTY, EITHER.
SO WE COME OUT OF HYPERSPACE EARLY, SCOUT THE SYSTEM, THEN MICROJUMP TO THE PLANET. SOUND GOOD?
THAT WORKS FOR A SPACE BATTLE. IF THEY'VE GOT TROOPS DOWN AND HIDDEN, YOU FLYBOYS WILL HAVE TO GIVE US A LOT OF COVER.
YOU'LL GET ALL YOU NEED. IT SEEMS WE HAVE A PLAN. NOT A GOOD ONE, BUT A PLAN.
IT WILL BE UP TO OUR PEOPLE THAT ANY POTENTIAL DISASTER REMAINS THAT, POTENTIAL. OTHERWISE, LOTS OF PEOPLE DIE...


IMPERIAL CENTER.
I KNEW IT. HE'D FLED, PROVING HIS TREASON. AND I WOULD HAVE FOUND HIM ON MY OWN...
...BUT I APPRECIATE YOUR SAVING ME THE TIME OF LOCATING HIM.
YOU WILL MAKE IT WORTH MY WHILE TO HAVE GIVEN HIM TO YOU?
VERY MUCH SO.
GOOD. I WANT A STAR DESTROYER, FULLY EQUIPPED AND STAFFED, FOR MY OWN.
AND I WANT NO INTERFERENCE FROM IMPERIAL FORCES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
DEMANDS LIKE THAT AND YOUR LIFE COULD BE SHORT. PESTAGE ISN'T WORTH SO MUCH.
NOW SEE HERE...
NO, I GIVE YOU YOUR LIFE AND 100,000 CREDITS FOR HIM. TAKE IT AND BE PLEASED.

A PITTANCE!
THAT PITTANCE WILL BE ON COMMENOR IN TWENTY DAYS, AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR ONE DAY ONLY. AND ONLY IF WE GET PESTAGE.
ISARD OUT!
PESTAGE IS ON CIUTRIC. I CAN HAVE PEOPLE THERE IN LESS THAN A DAY.
VAARTSOON, COME HERE, I NEED YOU.
YES, MADAM DIRECTOR?
TAKE TWO SQUADS OF SPECIAL OPERATIVES, ONE EACH TO A SHUTTLE, AND GO IMMEDIATELY TO CIUTRIC. OBTAIN CONTROL OF SATE PESTAGE BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
ANY MEANS?
BRING HIM OR HIS MORTAL REMAINS BACK HERE. DO NOT DELAY.
AS ORDERED, MADAM DIRECTOR.
THERE, NOW PESTAGE WILL BE MINE, AND AFTER HIM, THE EMPIRE OF MY MASTER. NOTHING WILL STOP ME...
MADAM DIRECTOR, GENERAL CARVIN WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU IMMEDIATELY...


FULL DIAGNOSTICS HAVE BEEN RUN ON YOUR SHIPS AND THEY'RE GOOD TO GO. ANY COMPLAINTS, WE GET THEM TAKEN CARE OF NOW.
WELL, MINE COULD USE A NEW PAINT JOB.
YEAH, WELL, CRASHING AN X-WING IS ROUGH ON THE FINISH, HOBBIE.
I'M MORE BANGED UP THAN MY SHIP.
I ENJOYED WORKOUT, TOO. YOU ARE GOOD FIGHTER.
NOT SO BAD YOURSELF, XARCCE.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHECKING OUT YOUR FIGHTER.
I WILL, BUT, IN YOUR HASTE TO CHANGE, YOU FORGOT YOUR EARRINGS. NOT REGULATION ISSUE, I'M AFRAID.
GOOD EYES, AVAN. I'M VERY HAPPY YOU'RE ON MY WING, WATCHING OUT FOR ME.
I THOUGHT I REQUESTED NO KILL MARKERS ON MY FIGHTER.
I APPRECIATE HOW HAVING TIES ON THERE MIGHT FEEL AWKWARD FOR YOU...
BUT?
YOU'RE A REBEL NOW. THIS IS WHAT WE DO. HOW WE REMEMBER WHO WE ARE.
EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU'RE FEL?
YES, LIEUTENANT, IS IT?
TELSIJ CAYR. I WAS AT ORADIN. I THINK YOU DID THIS TO ME, AND KILLED MY GUNNER.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME, LIEUTENANT.

COOL YOUR JETS, TECH, THIS IS THE TIME FOR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.
WE HEARD YOU CAME OVER, THAT YOU'VE BEEN FLYING WITH THE ROGUES, WE HEARD YOU WERE GOOD, VERY GOOD.
YOUR COMING OVER DIDN'T SIT WELL WITH A LOT OF FOLKS, YOU SPLASHED A LOT OF Y-WINGS.
DO YOU WANT ME TO APOLOGIZE? DO YOU WANT ME TO TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM FOR YOUR INJURIES?
NO APOLOGIZING FOR DOING WHAT YOU DID IN THE LINE OF DUTY...
IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE I'M FLYING AGAIN, BUT WHEN I'M ABLE, I'M GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR YOU.
I WON'T BE HARD TO FIND.
GOOD...
I'LL BE PROUD TO FLY WITH YOU, SIR. ANY PILOT WHO'S WILLING TO FLY AND FIGHT AS A REBEL, I CONSIDER A FRIEND.
I, AH... YOU ARE MOST GENEROUS, LIEUTENANT.
YOU AND THE ROGUES WILL BE KEEPING MY OTHER FRIENDS ALIVE AND I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT'S APPRECIATED. THE PAST IS PAST.
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS. I'LL KEEP THEM ALIVE.
AND I LOOK FORWARD TO FLYING WITH YOU SOMEDAY, TOO.
THANK YOU, SIR.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND.
YOU WILL LET YOUR PEOPLE ARRIVE THERE, BUT THEY ARE NOT TO TRANSPORT PESTAGE. THEY WILL SECURE HIM, THEN WAIT.
WAIT FOR?
I AM SENDING ADMIRAL KRENNEL AND THE RECKONING TO FETCH HIM TO IMPERIAL CENTER.
ARE YOU MAD? KRENNEL FAILED AT AXXILA.
MIND YOUR TONGUE, ISARD. WE RULE HERE NOW, NOT THAT SPINELESS FOOL, PESTAGE.
KRENNEL IS ANXIOUS TO MAKE AMENDS. HE WILL NOT FAIL THIS TIME.
YOU UNDERESTIMATE PESTAGE, I THINK.
IT IS JUST A SIMPLE RETRIEVAL MISSION.
TRIBUNE CHALLER'S POINT IS WELL TAKEN. HARDLY A TAXING MISSION.
AND THE EMPEROR THOUGHT HIS DEATH STARS INDESTRUCTIBLE.
AT LEAST, MY LORDS, YOU WILL ALLOW ME TO GO TO CIUTRIC AND PERSONALLY OVERSEE THE RECOVERY.

HOW IS IT YOU HAVE SO LITTLE TO DO HERE ON IMPERIAL CENTER?
I HAVE MUCH TO DO HERE, BUT THIS IS IMPORTANT.
AH, THEN YOU HAVE DISCOVERED HOW HE FLED? YOU KNOW WHO TIPPED HIM AND LET HIM ESCAPE?
YOU KNOW WHY CILITRIC'S GOVERNOR DID NOT REPORT PESTAGE'S PRESENCE TO YOU?
AND YOU HAVE ROUNDED UP EVERY REBEL AGENT HERE?
AND THOSE BOTHANS WHO STOLE THE DEATH STAR PLANS, THEY ARE ALL DEAD NOW, TOO?
CLEARLY YOUR DUTIES HERE NEED ATTENDING TO, DIRECTOR ISARD.
THIS MISSION IS SERIOUS WORK. LEAVE IT TO THOSE WHO CAN DO IT FLAWLESSLY.
AS MY LORDS ORDER, SO IT SHALL BE.
GOOD. YOU'LL FIND YOUR OBEDIENCE WILL BE REWARDED.
I SHALL OBEY YOUR ORDERS AND ATTEND TO MY DUTIES HERE, ON IMPERIAL CENTER.
AND DEALING WITH YOU, FOR THE GOOD OF THE EMPIRE, IS MOVING TO THE TOP OF MY LIST.

ROGUE SQUADRON AND AGGRESSOR WING WILL CONTINUE TO FLY SUPPORT SORTIES, THEN COVER TEAM 1 AS IT EXTRACTS OUR TARGET.

WE'RE LOOKING AT 18 HOURS FLIGHT TIME FROM HERE TO CILITRIC. IF THINGS ARE CLEAR, WE GO, IF NOT, WE ABORT. YOU'LL SLEEP IN HYPERSPACE SO YOU CAN BE SHARP OVER THE TARGET, UNDERSTOOD?

YES, LIEUTENANT?

SIR, WE WILL HAVE LIMITED TIME OVER TARGET WITH OUR FUEL RESERVES. WHAT IF THE EXTRACTION IS INCOMPLETE WHEN WE NEED TO SCOOT?

IF THINGS TAKE THAT LONG, WE SECURE THE SPACEPORT, REFUEL AND GO. WE'RE NOT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND.

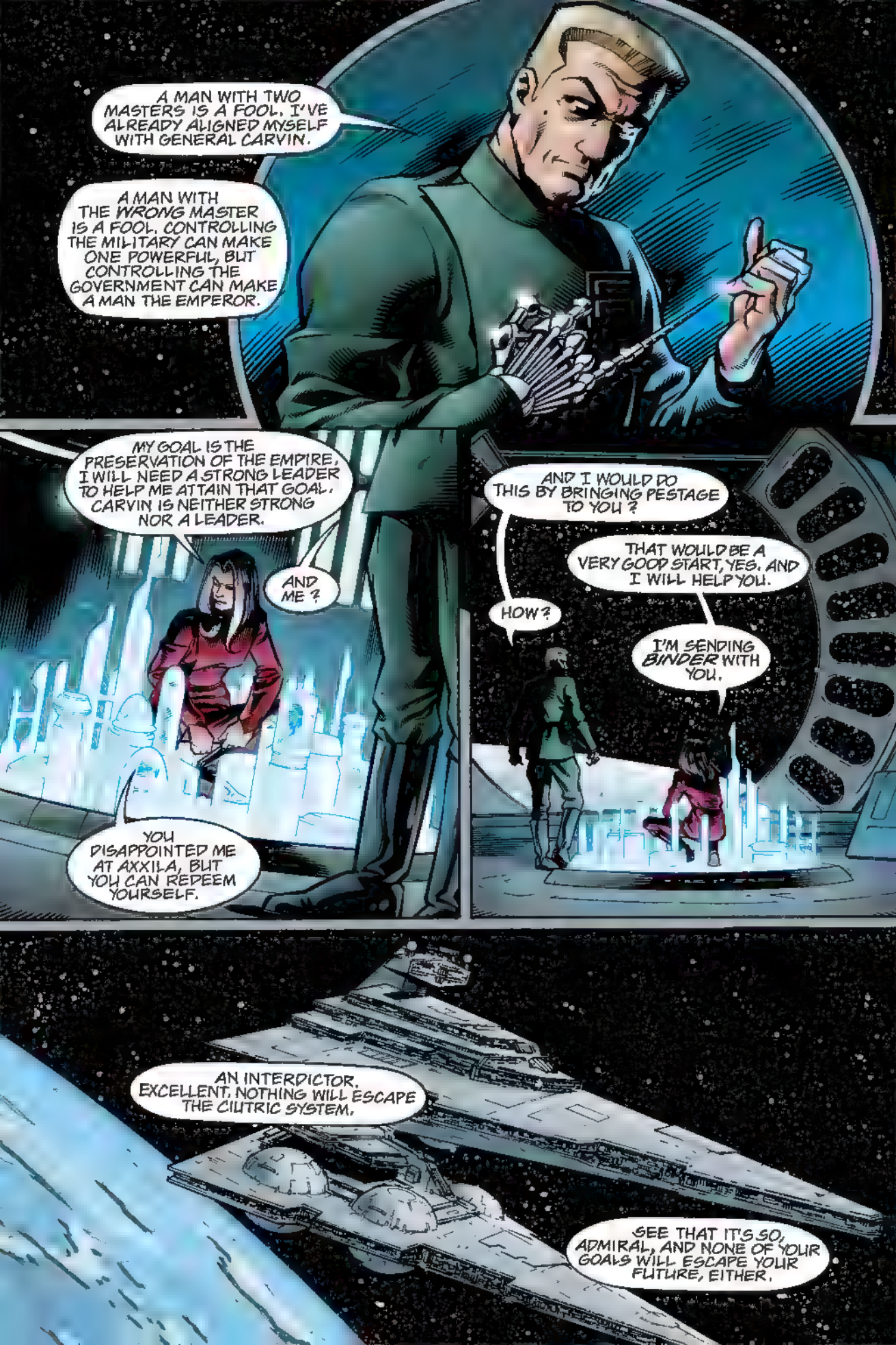
WE'LL BE IN AND OUT. WE WON'T RUN YOUR BIRDS DRY.

DOES THAT MEAN WE'LL BE RECOVERING DOWNED PILOTS, TOO?

WE'LL DO WHAT IT TAKES. YOU'RE RISKING YOUR LIVES IN THIS MISSION, AND WE'LL PROTECT THEM. YOU HAVE MY WORD. NOW, LET'S GO.

MAY THE FORCE BE WITH ALL OF US.

WHY WASTE TIME STUDYING THE ART OF A CULTURE, WHEN ALL I NEED TO KNOW I CAN LEARN FROM A TACTICAL HOLOGRAM LIKE THIS?
BUZZT!
ENTER.
ADMIRAL KRENNEL, PLAYING WITH A CHILD'S AMUSEMENT PROGRAM?
HARDLY, THOUGH YOUR MISTAKING IT FOR SUCH DOESN'T SURPRISE ME. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I CAME TO GIVE YOU YOUR ORDERS.
I HAVE MY ORDERS, FROM GENERAL CARVIN. I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU.
NOT FORMALLY, NO. PERHAPS YOU WOULD PREFER I PHRASE THEM AS AN ADVISORY.
AND WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE ME, MADAM DIRECTOR?
THAT YOU KEEP THAT SNEER OUT OF YOUR VOICE AND DO WHAT I TELL YOU TO DO.
I HAVE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND THERE SECURING PESTAGE. LEAVE HIM IN THEIR CONTROL.
WHEN YOU RETURN, THEY WILL BRING PESTAGE TO ME. CARVIN WILL BE ANGRY, BUT I WILL SEE TO IT YOU ARE PROTECTED.
WITH PESTAGE'S FLIGHT, POWER IS IN FLUX HERE ON IMPERIAL CENTER. PEOPLE DABBLE IN IT, BUT NO ONE HAS SECURED IT YET.


A MAN WITH TWO MASTERS IS A FOOL. I'VE ALREADY ALIGNED MYSELF WITH GENERAL CARVIN.
A MAN WITH THE *WRONG* MASTER IS A FOOL. CONTROLLING THE MILITARY CAN MAKE ONE POWERFUL, BUT CONTROLLING THE GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE A MAN THE EMPEROR.
MY GOAL IS THE PRESERVATION OF THE EMPIRE. I WILL NEED A STRONG LEADER TO HELP ME ATTAIN THAT GOAL. CARVIN IS NEITHER STRONG NOR A LEADER.
AND ME?
YOU DISAPPOINTED ME AT AXXILA, BUT YOU CAN REDEEM YOURSELF.
AND I WOULD DO THIS BY BRINGING PESTAGE TO YOU?
THAT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD START, YES. AND I WILL HELP YOU.
HOW?
I'M SENDING *BINDER* WITH YOU.
AN INTERDICTOR. EXCELLENT. NOTHING WILL ESCAPE THE CILTRIC SYSTEM.
SEE THAT IT'S SO, ADMIRAL, AND NONE OF YOUR GOALS WILL ESCAPE YOUR FUTURE, EITHER.

ELEVEN TO ROGUE LEAD, SYSTEM IS STILL CLEAR AFTER MICRO-JUMP TO CIUTRIC IV.
BOOSTING SENSOR GAIN, LOOKING DIRTSIDE. WE'RE GETTING SOME BASIC READINGS. MIGHT BE HOSTILES.
CONFIRM HOSTILES, I HAVE A HALF-DOZEN TIES COMING UP, ROGUE LEAD, YOUR SHOW.

AS ORDERED, GENERAL, ROGUES, ON THEM, TIGHT.
LOCAL TALENT, AND NOT VERY GOOD.
NOT BAD, EITHER.
GOT HIM. YOU OKAY, EIGHT?
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, ROGUE.
HE MADE A TRAINING RUN APPROACH. I KNEW WHERE HE'D BE.
HOW SO?
I INVENTED THAT TACTIC TO USE ON Y-WINGS.

Y-WING RUN ON LOCAL MILITIA BARRACKS COMMENCING.
TEAM ONE IS ON THE GROUND. OPPOSITION IS LIGHT.
LAST TIE DOWN, NO HOSTILES EVIDENCED.
GO! GO! GO!
ROGUE LEADER, WE'RE TAKING FIRE, GOT SOME HOT LIGHT TO SEND MY WAY?
ON IT, KAPP.

WHAT? WHO ARE YOU?
YOU HAVE FRIENDS IN THE NEW REPUBLIC. YOU WANT OFF THIS ROCK, LET'S GO.
THIS IS TEAM LEADER. WE HAVE THE PACKAGE AND ARE MOVING OUT.
ROGUE LEAD COPIES. WE HAVE GROUND COVER FOR YOU.
AGGRESSOR LEAD INITIATING EXIT VECTOR RUN. HURRY.
WE ARE LIFTING IN TEN SECONDS, REPEAT, ONE-ZERO SECONDS.
AGGRESSORS PRESENT, ACCOUNTED FOR, AND READY FOR THE RUN TO HYPERSPACE.
ROGUES, S-FOILS IN TRANSIT LOCK. LET'S GO HOME.
MOVE IT, ROGUES, SOMETHING'S COMING THROUGH FROM HYPERSPACE.

IMPSTAR DEUCE AND A DRAG SHIP!

I HAVE VISUAL. WE'RE CUT OFF FROM THE ESCAPE LANE.
AGGRESSOR WILL SCATTER AND COME BACK.
NEGATIVE, GENERAL. GET OUT OF HERE. GET US SOME HELP, BUT GET CLEAR. WE AGREED TO THAT, REMEMBER?
WE'LL GET BACK. YOU CAN HOLD OUT THAT LONG?
SURVIVING IS NEW FOR THE ROGUES, BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST.
THEN, MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, ALL OF YOU.
WHAT NOW, ROGUE LEAD?
WE HEAD FOR THE NIGHT SIDE AND GO TO GROUND.
I'VE HEARD BETTER PLANS BEFORE, LEAD.
AND I'VE HAD BETTER IN THE PAST, TYCHO. FOR NOW, GIVEN WHAT WE'RE FACING, THIS IS THE BEST OF A BAD LOT.

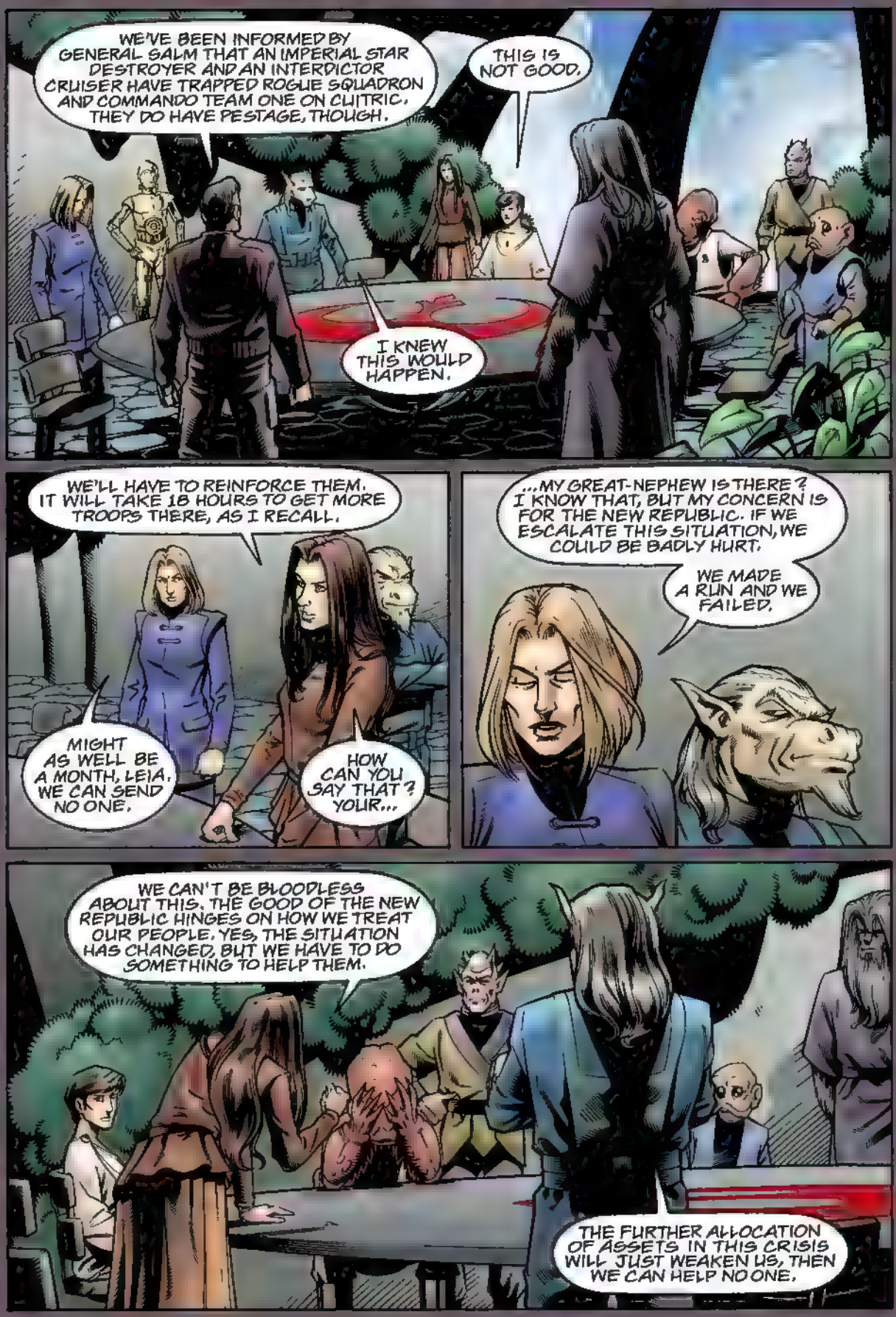
THE REBELS MOUNTED AN ATTACK, HERE, AND TOOK PESTAGE RIGHT OUT FROM BENEATH YOUR NOSE. INCREDIBLE.

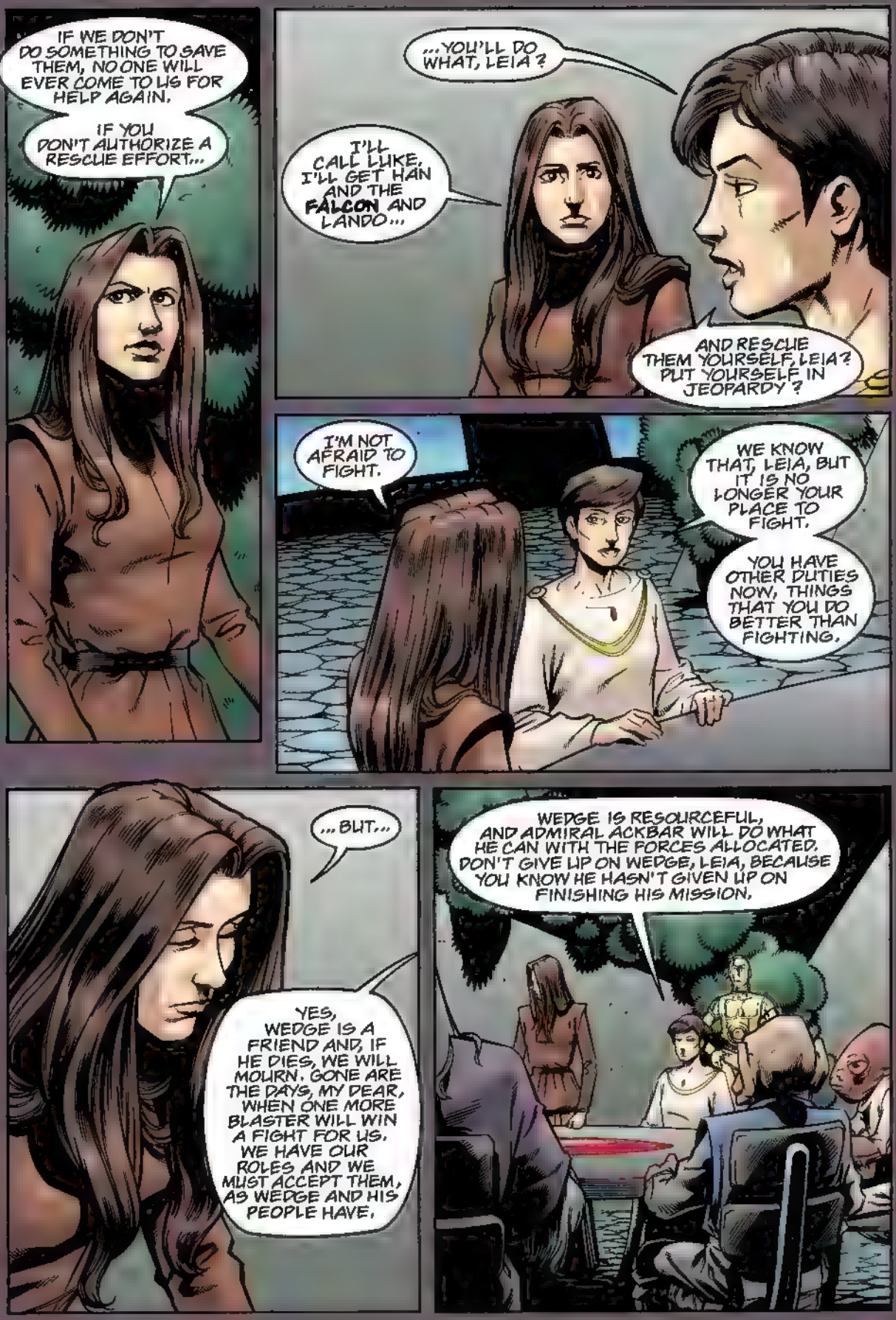
DIRECTOR ISARD LED ME TO BELIEVE YOU WERE COMPETENT.
WE ARE MORE THAN COMPETENT, ADMIRAL. I HAD ONE SQUAD ON PESTAGE AND ANOTHER SECURING THE LOCAL SPACEPORT TO FORESTALL AN ATTEMPT TO FLY HIM OUT.
BUT YOU FAILED.
AND, OF COURSE, ADMIRAL, YOUR INTERVENTION CAUSED THE REBELS JUST TO HAND PESTAGE OVER, YES ?
WHAT, YOU DON'T HAVE HIM YET ?
CRAACK!
UGNH!
IF I WEREN'T FORCED TO REVIEW YOUR FAILURE, I WOULD HAVE HIM RIGHT NOW.
CRUNCH!
LET THIS BE A LESSON TO THE REST OF YOU. I DO NOT TOLERATE FAILURE. I AM IN CHARGE HERE. YOU FOLLOW MY ORDERS, WITHOUT QUESTION. IMMEDIATELY!

I WANT TIE PATROLS TO CHECK EVERY SHIP LEAVING THE SYSTEM AND MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO ESCAPEES.
IF ANYTHING IS SUSPICIOUS, SHOOT FIRST, WE'LL SIFT DEBRIS LATER.
AS ORDERED, SIR.
AND HAVE A SQUADRON BEGIN A PATTERN SEARCH FOR THE X-WINGS.
AS ORDERED, SIR.
I WANT THIS CITY SECURED. MARTIAL LAW IS DECLARED. LOOTERS WILL BE SHOT, AND SERGEANT, I WILL LET YOU INTERPRET LOOTING HOWEVER YOU WISH. GIVE ME ORDER.
AND YOU, LET'S SEE SOMETHING *SPECIAL* AND *INTELLIGENT* ABOUT YOU, SHALL WE? WHY DON'T YOU DIG UP THE REBEL SYMPATHIZERS IN THIS TOWN. I WANT THEM AND THEIR SECRETS. NOW!
THE REBELS HARBOR HOPES OF GETTING PESTAGE OFF THIS ROCK. I WANT THOSE HOPES DASHED, AND DASHED QUICKLY.
IF THEY SUCCEED, YOU'D BETTER DIE TRYING TO STOP THEM. IF YOU DON'T, I'LL MAKE YOU WISH YOU HAD.

AN X-WING SQUADRON AGAINST AN IMPSTAR DELUCE AND AN INTERDICTOR. NOT THE WAY I'D HOPED THIS MISSION WOULD GO.
AT LEAST WE HAVE OBTAINED THE PACKET WE CAME FOR. WE GOT IT HALF RIGHT.
IT'S THE WRONG HALF I'M HAVING TROUBLE WITH.
AT LEAST WE KNOW KRENNEL HAS LITTLE OR NO IMAGINATION. IT'S A PLUS.
YOU HAVE A PLAN?
KRENNEL HAS 64 TIES, IF HE REPLACED THE ONES WE SHOT AT AXXILA. HE'LL SEND AT LEAST ONE SQUADRON DOWN TO PATROL. WE'LL HAVE TO HIT IT HARD.
TAKE THEM PIECEMEAL AND STRIP HIS FIGHTER COVER?
MIGHT GET HALF HIS TIES THAT WAY, BUT THEN KRENNEL WILL SEND THE REST OF THEM.
ROGUE SQUADRON'S REPUTATION GIVES ME HOPE, BUT WAITING PLAYS INTO KRENNEL'S HANDS.
HE CAN CALL IN REINFORCEMENTS, AND I DOUBT THE NEW REPUBLIC WILL REINFORCE YOU.
WE DO NEED SOME REINFORCING, FOR WHICH WE'LL NEED HOLONET ACCESS.
FIND ME A NODE AND I'LL TAP IN. OUR COMLINKS CAN GET US LOCAL STUFF, BUT KRENNEL'S LIKELY LOCKED THAT DOWN. OUR AGENTS HAVE ALSO LIKELY SCATTERED.
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT KRENNEL SUMMONING HELP. IF IT'S COMING, IT'S ALREADY ON THE WAY.
CHANCES ARE, THOUGH, HE'S SAVING US FOR HIMSELF.

YOU HAVE HOPE OF SURVIVING THIS, OF GETTING ME OUT?
THE NEW REPUBLIC SENT US AFTER YOU SO THERE WOULD BE ONE LESS VICTIM OF THE EMPIRE.
BUT I CAN NO LONGER TURN OVER IMPERIAL CENTER.
THAT'S WHAT YOU IMPS ALWAYS MISSED. THE REBELLION WASN'T ABOUT PLANETS, IT WAS ABOUT PEOPLE...
...IT WASN'T ABOUT POWER, BUT ABOUT FREEDOM. PEOPLE WILL DO A LOT TO WIN FREEDOM, FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR THOSE THEY HOLD DEAR.
I DOUBT MANY OF YOUR CONFEDERATES WOULD HOLD ME DEAR.
YOU'RE ON THE RUN FROM THE EMPIRE. YOU'RE ONE OF US WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT.
BACK TO THE KEY POINT HERE, GUYS. WE VAPE TIES, THEN TAKE OUR PROTON TORPS TO THE DRAG-SHIP. ONCE IT'S DOWN, THE SHUTTLES RUN AND WE'LL FOLLOW.
THAT'S THE PLAN, RIGHT?
IT'S OUR WORKING PLAN FOR THE MOMENT, ANYWAY. HAVE PILOTS STANDING BY FOR DEALING WITH ANY TIE PATROL.
I'LL SET THE WATCHES, WEDGE.
SUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS...
...IF THE EMPEROR HAD ANY IDEA OF HIS FOES' DEDICATION...
WE'D JUST HAVE KILLED THAT MANY MORE DEATH STARS IS ALL. THERE'S NO STOPPING FREEDOM.


WE'VE BEEN INFORMED BY GENERAL SALM THAT AN IMPERIAL STAR DESTROYER AND AN INTERDICTOR CRUISER HAVE TRAPPED ROGUE SQUADRON AND COMMANDO TEAM ONE ON CUITRIC. THEY DO HAVE PESTAGE, THOUGH.
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
WE'LL HAVE TO REINFORCE THEM. IT WILL TAKE 18 HOURS TO GET MORE TROOPS THERE, AS I RECALL.
MIGHT AS WELL BE A MONTH, LEIA. WE CAN SEND NO ONE.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOUR...
...MY GREAT-NEPHEW IS THERE? I KNOW THAT, BUT MY CONCERN IS FOR THE NEW REPUBLIC. IF WE ESCALATE THIS SITUATION, WE COULD BE BADLY HURT.
WE MADE A RUN AND WE FAILED.
WE CAN'T BE BLOODLESS ABOUT THIS. THE GOOD OF THE NEW REPUBLIC HINGES ON HOW WE TREAT OUR PEOPLE. YES, THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED, BUT WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THEM.
THE FURTHER ALLOCATION OF ASSETS IN THIS CRISIS WILL JUST WEAKEN US, THEN WE CAN HELP NO ONE.


IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THEM, NO ONE WILL EVER COME TO US FOR HELP AGAIN.
IF YOU DON'T AUTHORIZE A RESCUE EFFORT...
...YOU'LL DO WHAT, LEIA?
I'LL CALL LUKE, I'LL GET HAN AND THE FALCON AND LANDO...
AND RESCUE THEM YOURSELF, LEIA? PUT YOURSELF IN JEOPARDY?
I'M NOT AFRAID TO FIGHT.
WE KNOW THAT, LEIA, BUT IT IS NO LONGER YOUR PLACE TO FIGHT.
YOU HAVE OTHER DUTIES NOW, THINGS THAT YOU DO BETTER THAN FIGHTING.
...BUT...
YES, WEDGE IS A FRIEND AND, IF HE DIES, WE WILL MOURN. GONE ARE THE DAYS, MY DEAR, WHEN ONE MORE BLASTER WILL WIN A FIGHT FOR US. WE HAVE OUR ROLES AND WE MUST ACCEPT THEM, AS WEDGE AND HIS PEOPLE HAVE.
WEDGE IS RESOURCEFUL, AND ADMIRAL ACKBAR WILL DO WHAT HE CAN WITH THE FORCES ALLOCATED. DON'T GIVE UP ON WEDGE, LEIA, BECAUSE YOU KNOW HE HASN'T GIVEN UP ON FINISHING HIS MISSION.

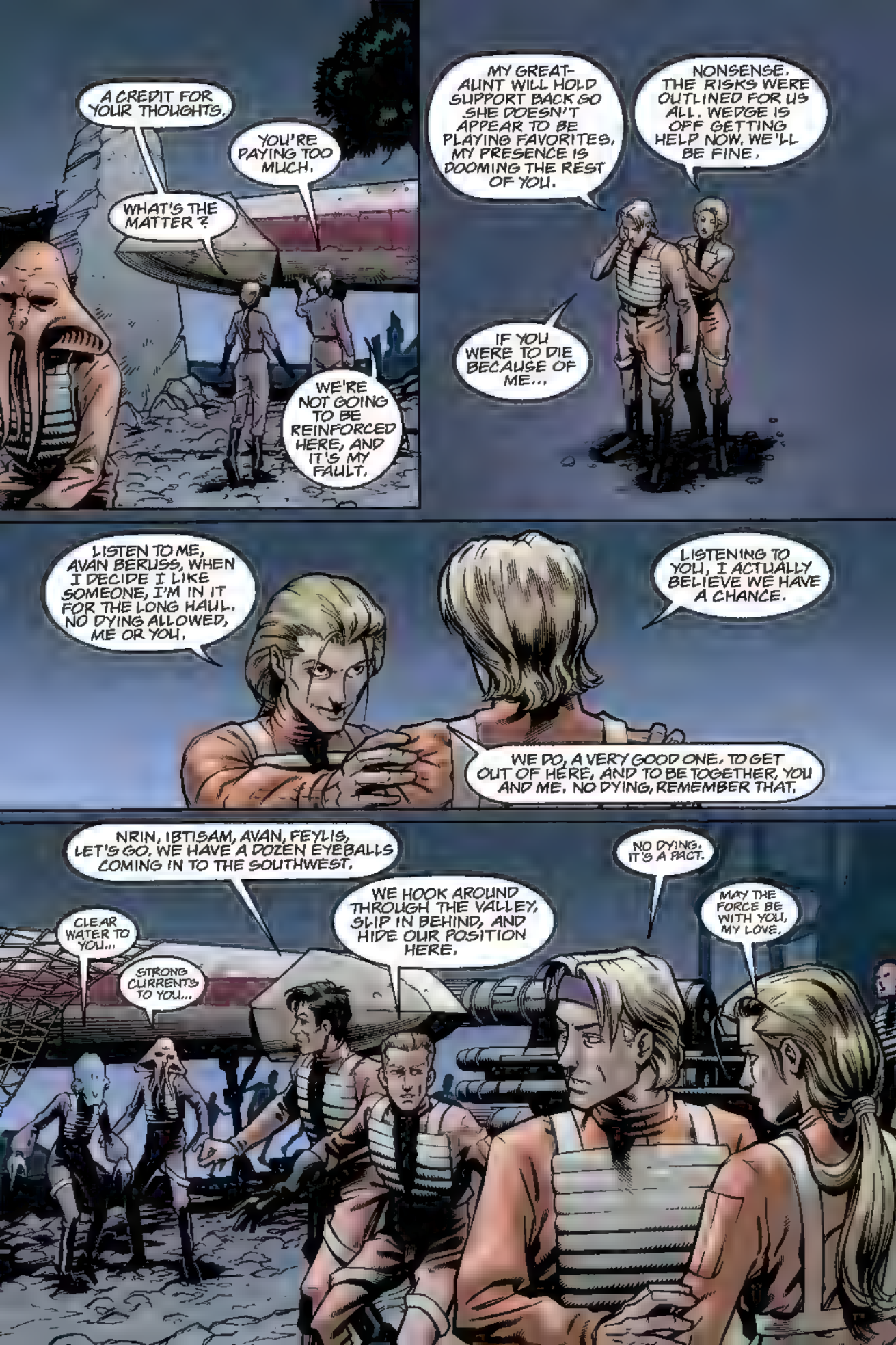
CRAACK!
0761, LOOK OUT!
HALT! STOP RIGHT NOW OR I'LL...
PIFF!
WE'RE IN. SHOULD BE FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE ANYONE NOTICES THESE GUYS HAVEN'T REPORTED IN.
THERE'S THE JUNCTION BOX. I'LL HAVE US OPERATIONAL FASTER THAN A HUTT SUCKS SPICE.
I'LL GET THE MESSAGE OUT QUICKLY, DON'T WORRY.
WHIRR INNG.
THANKS.
YOU THINK THIS WILL WORK?
WEDGE DOES. THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
I WISH I KNEW WHO HE WAS SPEAKING TO.

NEED TO KNOW, KAPP.
WEDGE'S JUST GETTING BACK AT US FOR ALL THE TIMES WE'VE TOLD HIM THAT.
GOT TO ALLOW THESE FLYBOYS THEIR GAMES.
AND FLYGIRLS, THINK THAT PLOURR WOULD EVER CONSIDER GOING OUT WITH ME?
FIRST HAN SOLO AND NOW YOU WANT A PRINCESS? THIS ISN'T A REBELLION, IT'S A MATCHMAKER'S COTILLION.
I DON'T RECALL YOUR PROTESTING TYCHO'S BEING AROUND.
HE'S DIFFERENT.
OH?
HE'S A LIVING, BREATHING PIECE OF ALDERAAN THAT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING THE EMPIRE TAKE AWAY FROM ME.
I'M DONE. LET'S MOVE.
THINGS WORK OKAY?
I PUMPED A MESSAGE THROUGH CHANNELS.
ODDS ARE LONG AGAINST US, THINK YOUR HELP WILL SHOW UP?
YOU KNOW CORELLIANS--NO USE FOR ODDS.
HELP'S COMING AND WILL BE HERE FAST.

COME TO SEE IF I WAS OKAY, OR IS YOUR VISIT THE HARBINGER OF TROUBLE?
I JUST CAME TO SEE HOW FAR THE MIGHTY HAD FALLEN. I HAD TO REMIND MYSELF YOU'RE A MAN LIKE ANY OTHER.
IS THAT IT, OR ARE YOU HERE TO GLOAT OVER MY MISFORTUNE?
INTERESTING QUESTION. THE ANSWER IS NO, OF COURSE.
WHY 'OF COURSE?' A LOYAL SON OF THE EMPIRE, SUCH AS YOURSELF, SHOULD FIND MY SITUATION SUITABLY HUMILIATING.
THE ONLY HUMILIATION FOR EITHER OF US WAS THAT WE FAILED TO SEE THE EMPIRE TO WHICH WE GAVE OUR LOYALTY WAS UNDESERVING OF IT.
HAVE THEY WARPED YOU SO EASILY?
DO YOU CLING SO FIERCELY TO WILLFUL BLINDNESS OF REALITY?
YOU FAIL TO SEE THAT THIS IS ALL A GAME. THE REBELS WANT POWER AND THEY HAVE IT, BUT THEIR INEPTNESS WILL RESULT IN OUR DEATHS.
YOU'RE WRONG. KAPP SHOWED YOU THE TRUTH AND YOU DON'T ACCEPT IT.
THEN YOU WELCOME DEATH HERE?
I DON'T PLAN ON DYING, BUT IF I DO, I DIE A FREE MAN.

DEAD IS DEAD, FREE OR NOT. THE EMPIRE GAVE YOU EVERYTHING YOU ARE.
THE EMPIRE ELEVATED YOU FROM BEING A FARM BOY AND MADE YOU A GALACTIC HERO.
THE EMPIRE DID THAT TO LUKE SKYWALKER, TOO, AND MANY OTHER MEN.
BUT YOU WERE COMPLICIT IN YOUR OWN ELEVATION. THERE IS BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS. THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS.
NOT ANY MORE.
ONLY A FOOL THINKS HE CAN ESCAPE HIS PAST.
I AGREE, SO I ATONE FOR MINE.
THAT WILL TAKE YOU A LONG TIME.
AT LEAST I AM FREE TO SPEND MY TIME THAT WAY. NOW, YOU SHOULD THINK ON DOING THE SAME YOURSELF, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

THANK YOU, NRIN. I WAS BEGINNING TO GET THIRSTY. HOW DID YOU KNOW ?
WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS YOU TEND NOT TO DRINK MUCH. WE QUARREN TEND TO DRY OUT FASTER THAN YOU MON CALAMARI.
YOU FIGURED THAT WHEN YOU GOT THIRSTY, I WOULD ?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YES.
YOU TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF ME, NRIN. I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH.
YOU'RE A ROGUE, AND YOU'RE FROM MY WORLD. THE FACT THAT OUR PEOPLE NEVER GOT ALONG SHOULDN'T STAND BETWEEN US.
THE EMPIRE'S ARRIVAL AND TREATMENT OF MON CALAMARI REALLY SPLIT OUR PEOPLE APART. HERE, FIGHTING THE EMPIRE...
...SEEMS THE PERFECT PLACE TO HEAL THE RIFT BETWEEN US AND OUR PEOPLE.
I FEEL NO RIFT BETWEEN US. I FEEL VERY CLOSE TO YOU.
AND I, YOU. PERHAPS, WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER...
...WE CAN RETURN TO MON CALAMARI AND SHOW OTHERS HOW THE RIFT SHOULD BE HEALED BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE.
FORMER WARRIORS BRINGING A MESSAGE OF PEACE ?
PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THE FOLLY OF HATRED AND UNDERSTAND THE STRENGTH OF LOVE.
I WOULD BE PROUD TO BE YOUR PARTNER IN THIS SORT OF CAMPAIGN.
AND WITH US TOGETHER, NO ONE WILL STAND AGAINST US.


A CREDIT FOR YOUR THOUGHTS.
YOU'RE PAYING TOO MUCH.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE REINFORCED HERE, AND IT'S MY FAULT.
MY GREAT-AUNT WILL HOLD SUPPORT BACK SO SHE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE PLAYING FAVORITES. MY PRESENCE IS DOOMING THE REST OF YOU.
NONSENSE. THE RISKS WERE OUTLINED FOR US ALL. WEDGE IS OFF GETTING HELP NOW. WE'LL BE FINE.
IF YOU WERE TO DIE BECAUSE OF ME...
LISTEN TO ME, AVAN BERUSS, WHEN I DECIDE I LIKE SOMEONE, I'M IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL. NO DYING ALLOWED, ME OR YOU.
LISTENING TO YOU, I ACTUALLY BELIEVE WE HAVE A CHANCE.
WE DO, A VERY GOOD ONE, TO GET OUT OF HERE, AND TO BE TOGETHER, YOU AND ME. NO DYING, REMEMBER THAT.
NRIN, IBTISAM, AVAN, FEYLIS, LET'S GO. WE HAVE A DOZEN EYEBALLS COMING IN TO THE SOUTHWEST.
CLEAR WATER TO YOU...
STRONG CURRENTS TO YOU...
WE HOOK AROUND THROUGH THE VALLEY, SLIP IN BEHIND, AND HIDE OUR POSITION HERE.
NO DYING. IT'S A PACT.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, MY LOVE.

QUAD YOUR LASERS FOR MAX PUNCH, NO TORPS; WE HAVE TO SAVE THEM FOR LATER.
ROGUE TWO NEEDS HELP. I CAN'T SHAKE THIS PILOT.
HANG TIGHT, TWO, THREE IS COMING.
JUST ANOTHER SECOND.
TWO, YOU HAVE SMOKE.
TWO IS HIT, ENGINE FAILURE...
GOT HIM. YOU'RE CLEAR, THREE.
THREE, BREAK HARD PORT, NOW!
WHERE'S TWO? I CAN'T SEE TWO!

FIVE TO BASE, WE HAVE A PILOT DOWN. INITIATE RECOVERY.
TARGET GOING DOWN, I NEED A NEW VECTOR. CAN ANYONE SEE TWO?
YOU GOT THE LAST ONE, NRIN.
CAN ANYONE SEE TWO? DO YOU COPY, IBTISAM?
SEVEN IS NEGATIVE FOR HOSTILES. I DON'T HAVE TWO, EITHER.
WE HAVE THE COORDINATES, THREE, RESCUE WILL FIND HER.
NO BEACON...
THEY'LL FIND HER, NRIN. BELIEVE IT.

MADAM DIRECTOR ISARD, YOU WERE GIVEN DIRECT ORDERS BY THIS COUNCIL FOR DEALING WITH THE MATTER ON CUITRIC. YOU VIOLATED THEM.
YOUR AGENTS DELAYED THE REBEL RESCUE ENOUGH THAT ADMIRAL KRENNEL'S EXQUISITELY TIMED INTERVENTION IN THE SYSTEM DID NOT CATCH THE REBELS IN SPACE, AS WE HAD INTENDED.
YOUR FORBIDDEN ACTION MEANS THE QUARRY HAS BEEN LOST AND LIVES WILL BE SPENT TO RECOVER IT.
THE ONLY REASON YOU WERE NOT SACKED IMMEDIATELY IS BECAUSE YOU SENT THE BINDER TO CUITRIC AND ITS PRESENCE PREVENTED THIS OPERATION FROM BECOMING A TOTAL FIASCO.
WE HAVE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR INTERFERENCE IN THIS MATTER.
PESTAGE MIGHT HAVE TOLERATED YOUR ANTICS, BUT WE WILL NOT. YOU'D BEST UNDERSTAND THIS, MADAM DIRECTOR, OR YOUR TENURE BENEATH OUR REIGN WILL BE SHORT.
AND WILL END VERY BADLY. DO YOU TRULY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE SAYING?

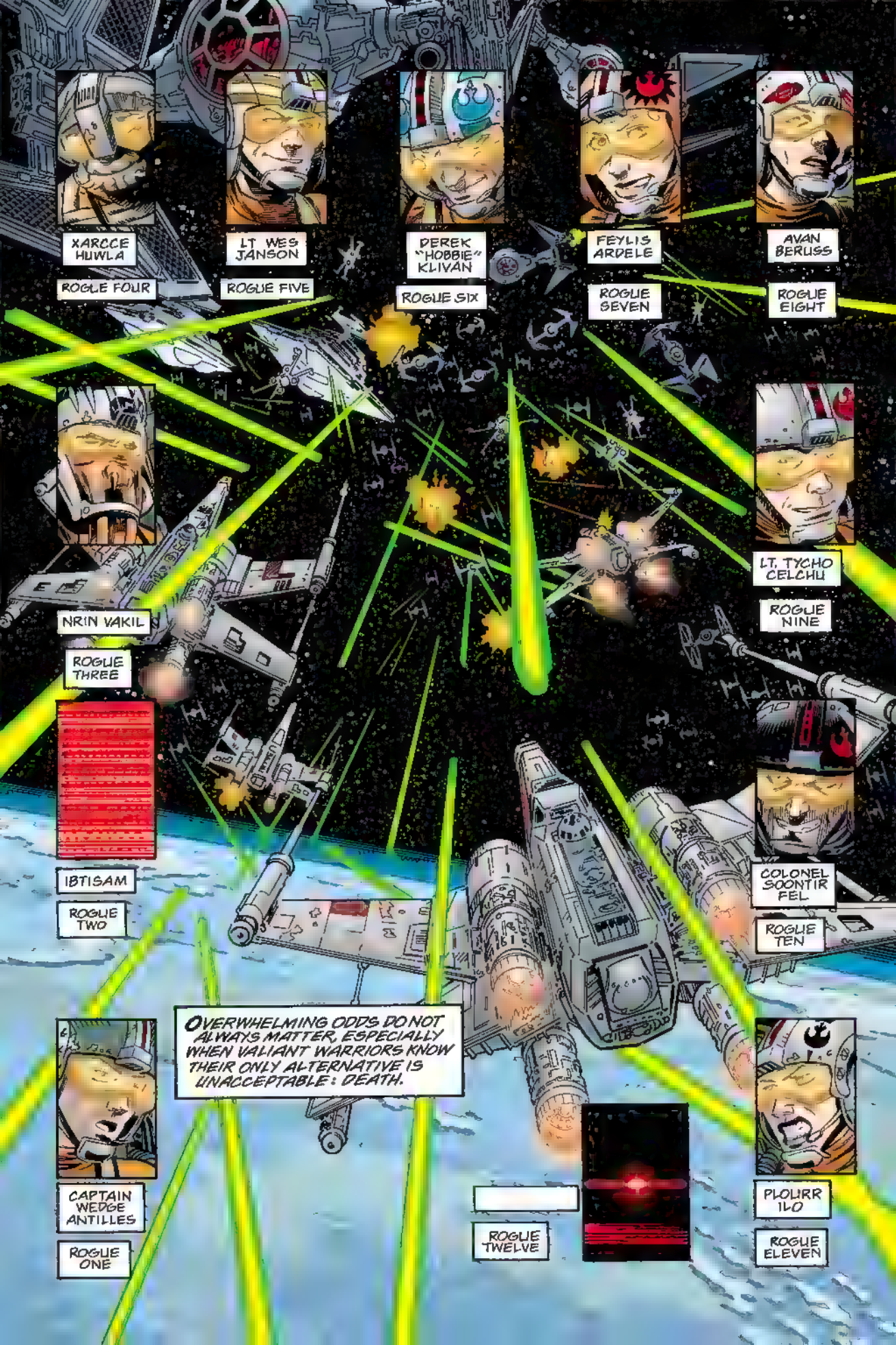
I UNDERSTAND FULLY WHAT YOU ARE TELLING ME.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU ARE FOOLS, HAD *BINDER* NOT BEEN THERE--*MY BINDER*--THE REBELS WOULD BE GONE WITH PESTAGE.
YOU REBUKE ME TO COVER YOUR OWN FAILURES, AND YOU CONGRATULATE YOURSELVES ON YOUR WISDOM. YOU WILL LEARN HOW FOOLISH YOU TRULY ARE.
I SHALL TAKE STEPS, MY LORDS, THAT YOU NEVER SEE THE NEED TO CHASTEN ME AGAIN.

THERE YOU ARE, BUTCHER!
AWRRAAWK!
IF SHE DIED TO SAVE YOUR LEATHERY HIDE... IF SHE IS DEAD, I WILL KILL YOU MYSELF.
NRIN!
SHE WANTED PEACE. AN END TO TYRANNY. FROM YOUR KIND. ALL SHE GOT WAS PAIN, AND I WILL REPAY YOU FOR ALL OF IT!
AS YOU WISH, QUARREN.
LET ME GO! IT'S HIS FAULT, WHAT HAS HAPPENED!
HE'S AN OLD MAN, LEAVE HIM ALONE.
ARE YOU...
...HURT? AN ANIMAL LIKE THAT COULDN'T HURT ME.

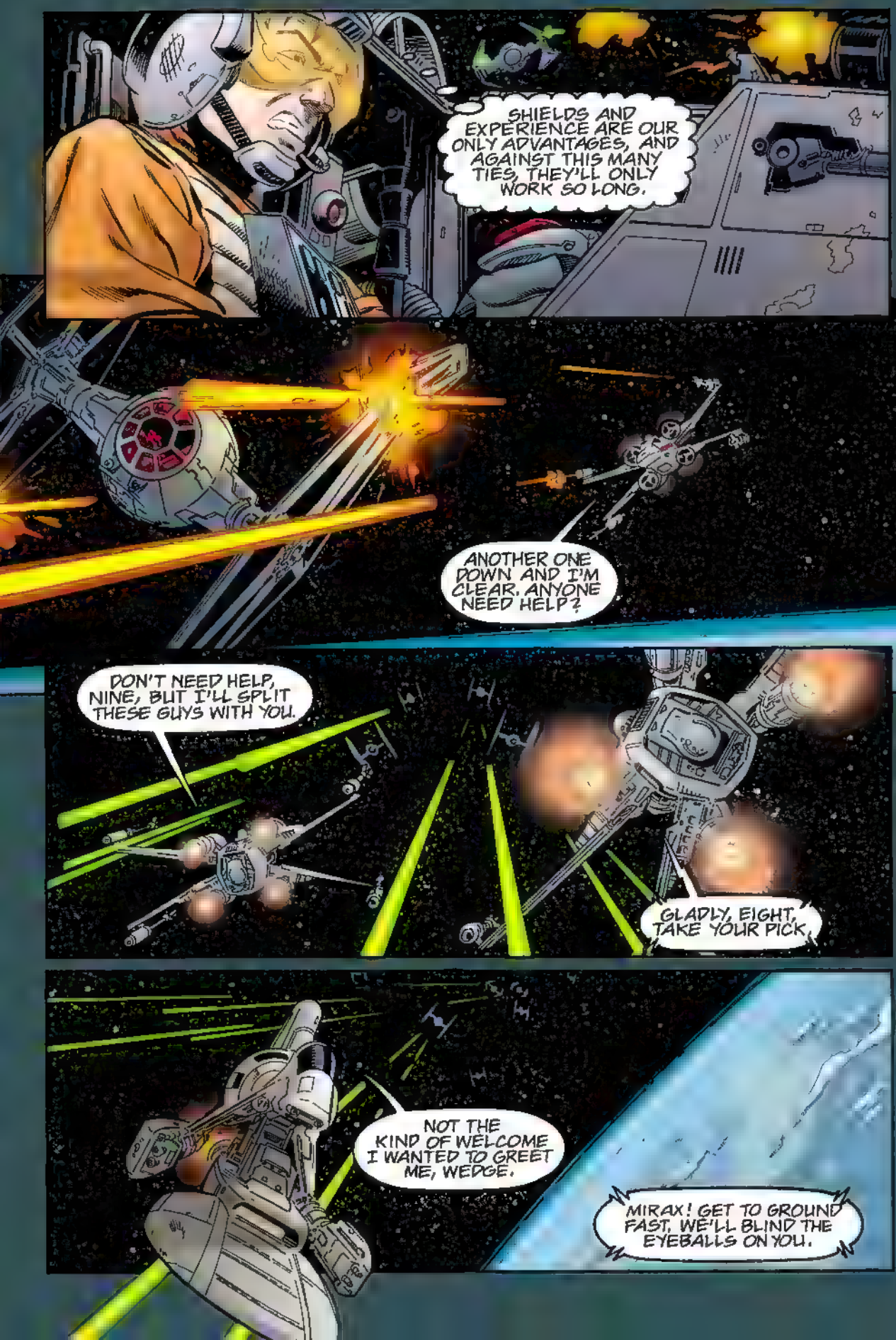
A MAN, JUST LIKE YOU.
NO, A MAN AS I ONCE WAS. NO MORE.
YOU REBELS CLAIM NOBILITY AND PURPOSE, BUT YOUR ALLIANCE WITH ANIMALS LIKE THE QUARREN DRAG YOU DOWN.
WHAT?!
IF YOUR CAUSE WAS SO NOBLE, YOUR PURPOSE SO PURE, YOU WOULD HAVE PREVAILED WITHOUT RESORTING TO USING THE LESSER SPECIES TO SUPPORT YOU.
YOU ARE FROM IMPERIAL STOCK. YOU CAN'T CHANGE.
I CAN CHANGE AND I *HAVE* CHANGED. I'VE CHANGED BECAUSE OF YOU.
WHAT?
YOU, THE REBELS, YOUR EFFORTS AGAINST ALL ODDS. YOUR BELIEF IN THE JUSTICE OF YOUR CAUSE.
BUT THEY ARE SAPIENT CREATURES WHO DESERVE FREEDOM.
A WORTHY MESSAGE THAT MAKES THEM FLOCK TO YOUR BANNER, BUT WE KNOW, YOU AND I, IT'S MERELY PROPAGANDA.
YOU'RE WRONG.
OR YOU'RE SO NAIVE THAT YOU DON'T SEE WHAT REALLY IS HAPPENING HERE. YOUR NEW REPUBLIC WILL BE AN EMPIRE SOON ENOUGH.
TO FIGHT YOU, THE EMPIRE BECAME EXTREME AND EVEN I COULD SEE THEIR EVIL. I'VE REPUDIATED IT, AND NOW I FIGHT IT.
YOUR CONVERSION IS LATE.
IS IT EVER TOO LATE TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL?
IT IS ALL ABOUT POWER AND HOW IT CHANGES PEOPLE. YOUR LEADERS WILL SEE TO THAT. THEY WILL FALL PREY TO IT.
NEVER. YOUR EXAMPLE ALONE WILL WARN THEM AWAY FROM SUCCUMBING TO EVIL.
THE RESCUE TEAM IS BACK!

LOST A SQUADRON, DID YOU? RATHER CARELESS. GENERAL CARVIN MIGHT NOT GIVE YOU MORE TOYS IF YOU DON'T TAKE BETTER CARE OF THE ONES YOU HAVE.
MY INFORMING GENERAL CARVIN OF THIS COMMUNICATION COULD COST YOU MORE, ISARD. HE TOLD ME YOU WERE OF NO IMPORTANCE.
MORE FOOL, HE. HE'S CLEARLY NOT QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION OF TRIBUNAL LEADER. YOU COULD BE, HOWEVER, IF YOU LEARNED HOW TO TAKE ORDERS.
HOW, OR FROM WHOM?!
YOUR FIRST LESSON IS LEARNED.
CARVIN LEADS, AND WILL LEAD FOR LIFE.
YOU SAY THAT AS IF LIFE IS A SYNONYM FOR LONG.
YOUR POINT IS WELL MADE.
UNDERSTAND MY NEXT ONE, GET ME PESTAGE AND YOU WILL LEAD THE EMPIRE.
CONSIDER IT DONE.
THE ROGUES...
... ARE OF NO CONSEQUENCE. I'VE PINPOINTED THEIR LOCATION. WE'RE GOING IN.

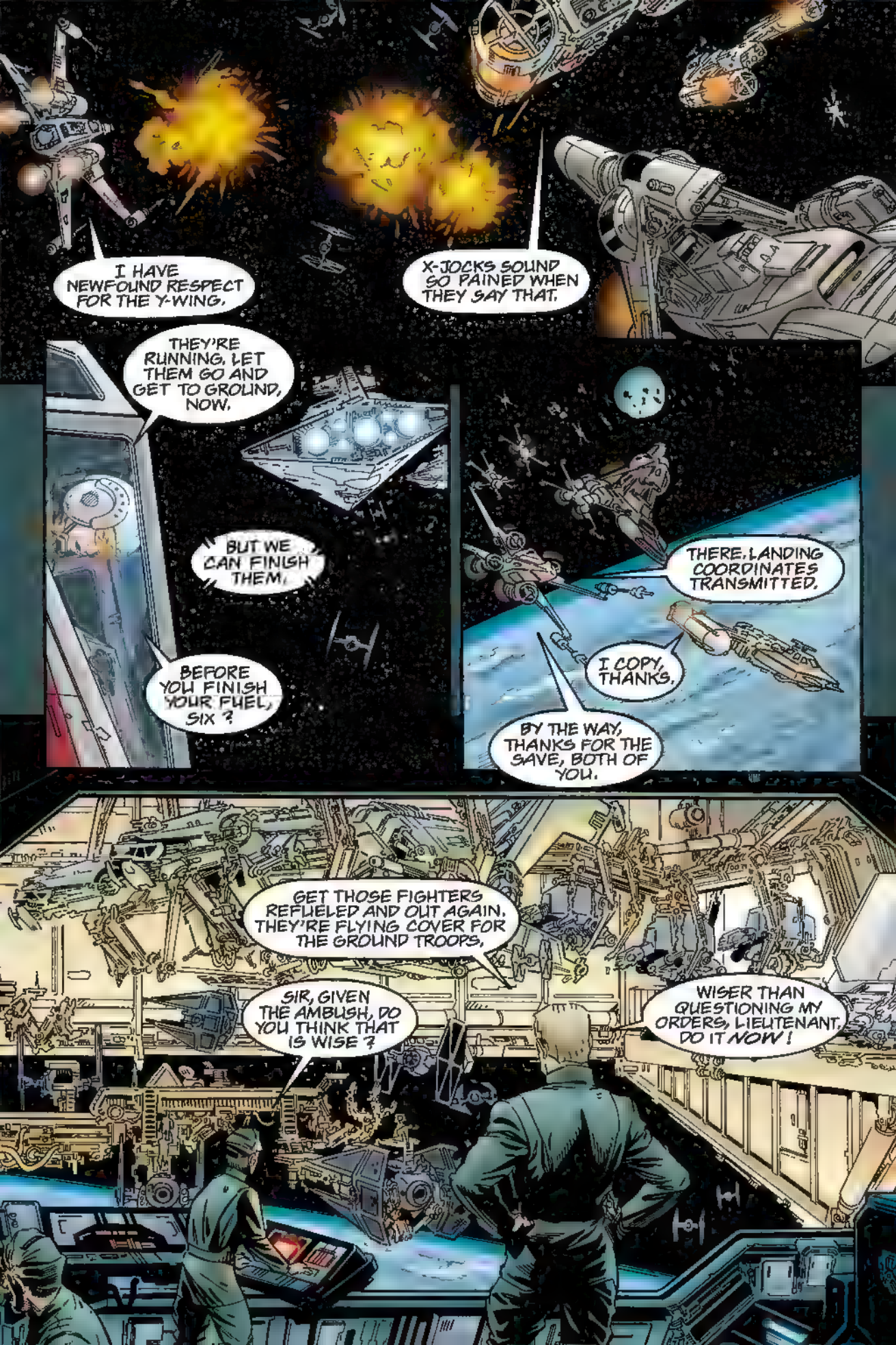
ROGUE SQUADRON HAS LONG BEEN THE HEART OF THE REBELLION. TODAY WE WILL TEAR IT OUT AND DESTROY IT.

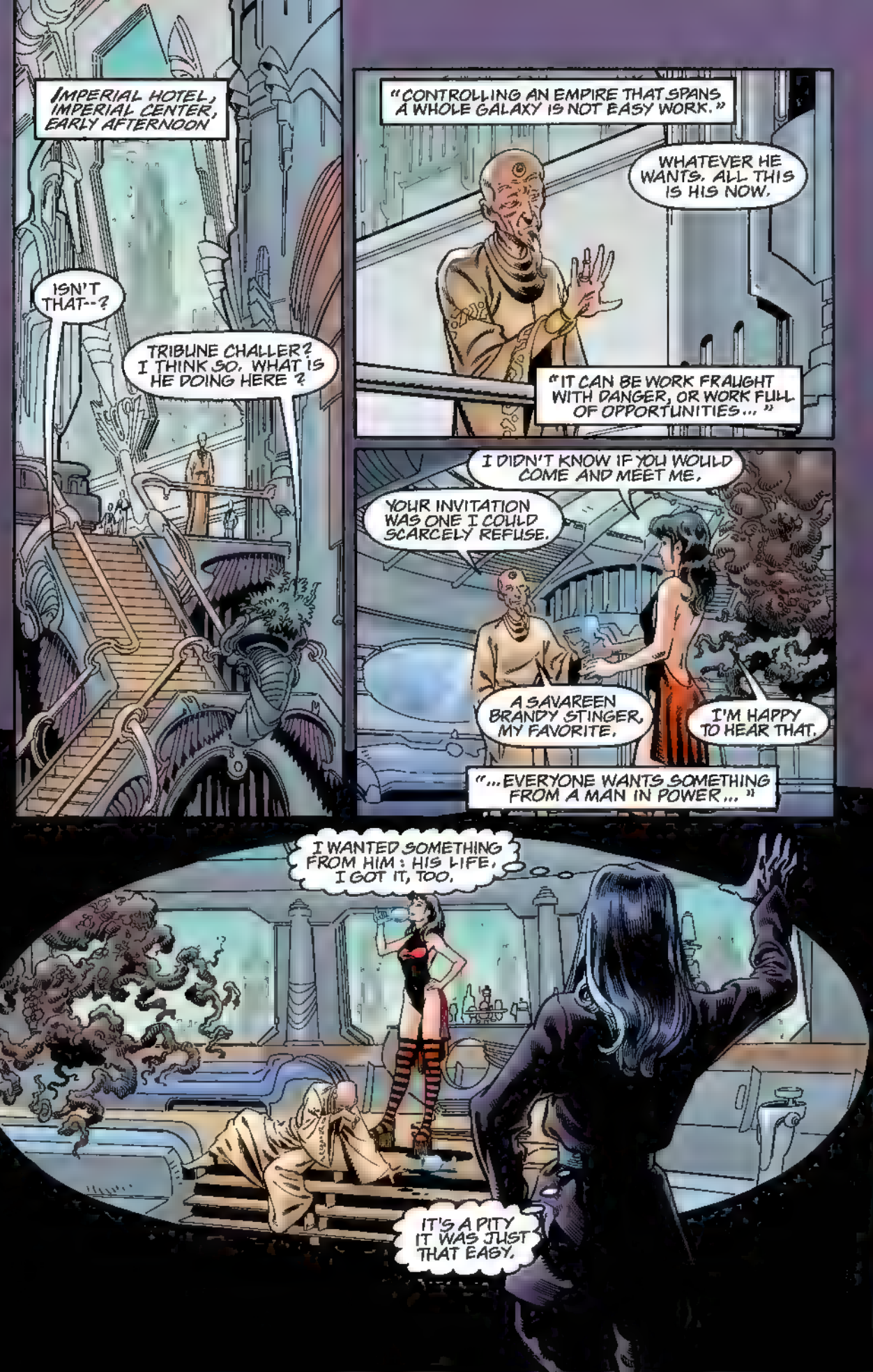

XARCCE HUWLA
ROGUE FOUR
LT WES JANSON
ROGUE FIVE
DEREK "HOBBIE" KLIVAN
ROGUE SIX
FEYLIS ARDELE
ROGUE SEVEN
AVAN BERUSS
ROGUE EIGHT
LT. TYCHO CELCHU
ROGUE NINE
NRIN VAKIL
ROGUE THREE
IBTISAM
ROGUE TWO
COLONEL SOONTIR FEL
ROGUE TEN
OVERWHELMING ODDS DO NOT ALWAYS MATTER, ESPECIALLY WHEN VALIANT WARRIORS KNOW THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS UNACCEPTABLE: DEATH.
CAPTAIN WEDGE ANTILLES
ROGUE ONE
ROGUE TWELVE
PLOURR ILO
ROGUE ELEVEN

BREAK STARBOARD, SEVEN.
I COPY, ELEVEN. THANKS.
GREAT SHOOTING, SIX.
NEED MORE OF IT, FIVE, IF WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.
TEN HAS TWO ON HIM. I COULD USE SOME HELP.
TEN, YOU'RE CLEAR.
THANKS FOR THE SAVE, NRIN.
GLAD I COULD SAVE SOMEONE.


SHIELDS AND EXPERIENCE ARE OUR ONLY ADVANTAGES, AND AGAINST THIS MANY TIES, THEY'LL ONLY WORK SO LONG.
ANOTHER ONE DOWN AND I'M CLEAR. ANYONE NEED HELP?
DON'T NEED HELP, NINE, BUT I'LL SPLIT THESE GUYS WITH YOU.
GLADLY, EIGHT. TAKE YOUR PICK.
NOT THE KIND OF WELCOME I WANTED TO GREET ME, WEDGE.
MIRAX! GET TO GROUND FAST. WE'LL BLIND THE EYEBALLS ON YOU.

THE TIES ARE SWARMING ON THE SKATE, WEDGE.
LET'S GO, ROGUES, HAVE TO SCRAPE THE TIES OFF.
MY R2 IS HIT, AND THEY'RE STILL COMING.
BREAK PORT, FIVE. I HAVE COVER FOR YOU.
GREAT. GOT A MIRACLE FOR THE REST OF US?
THIS CLOSE ENOUGH, FIVE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, GENERAL?
PAYING YOU BACK FOR SOME OF THE RESCUES IN THE PAST, ROGUE LEAD.

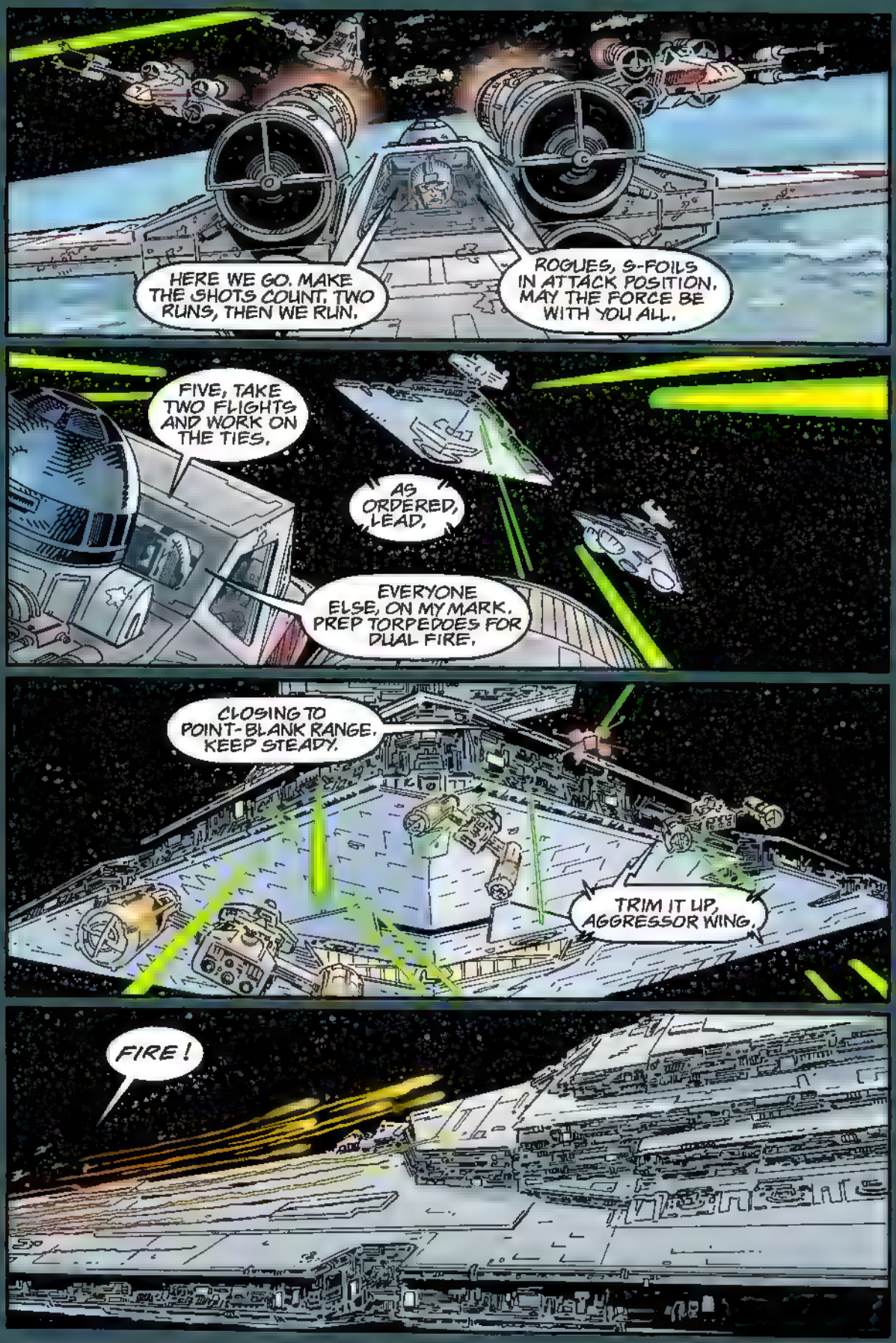

I HAVE NEWFOUND RESPECT FOR THE Y-WING.
X-JOCKS SOUND SO PAINED WHEN THEY SAY THAT.
THEY'RE RUNNING. LET THEM GO AND GET TO GROUND, NOW.
BUT WE CAN FINISH THEM.
BEFORE YOU FINISH YOUR FUEL, SIX ?
THERE. LANDING COORDINATES TRANSMITTED.
I COPY, THANKS.
BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR THE SAVE, BOTH OF YOU.
GET THOSE FIGHTERS REFUELED AND OUT AGAIN. THEY'RE FLYING COVER FOR THE GROUND TROOPS.
SIR, GIVEN THE AMBUSH, DO YOU THINK THAT IS WISE ?
WISER THAN QUESTIONING MY ORDERS, LIEUTENANT. DO IT NOW !

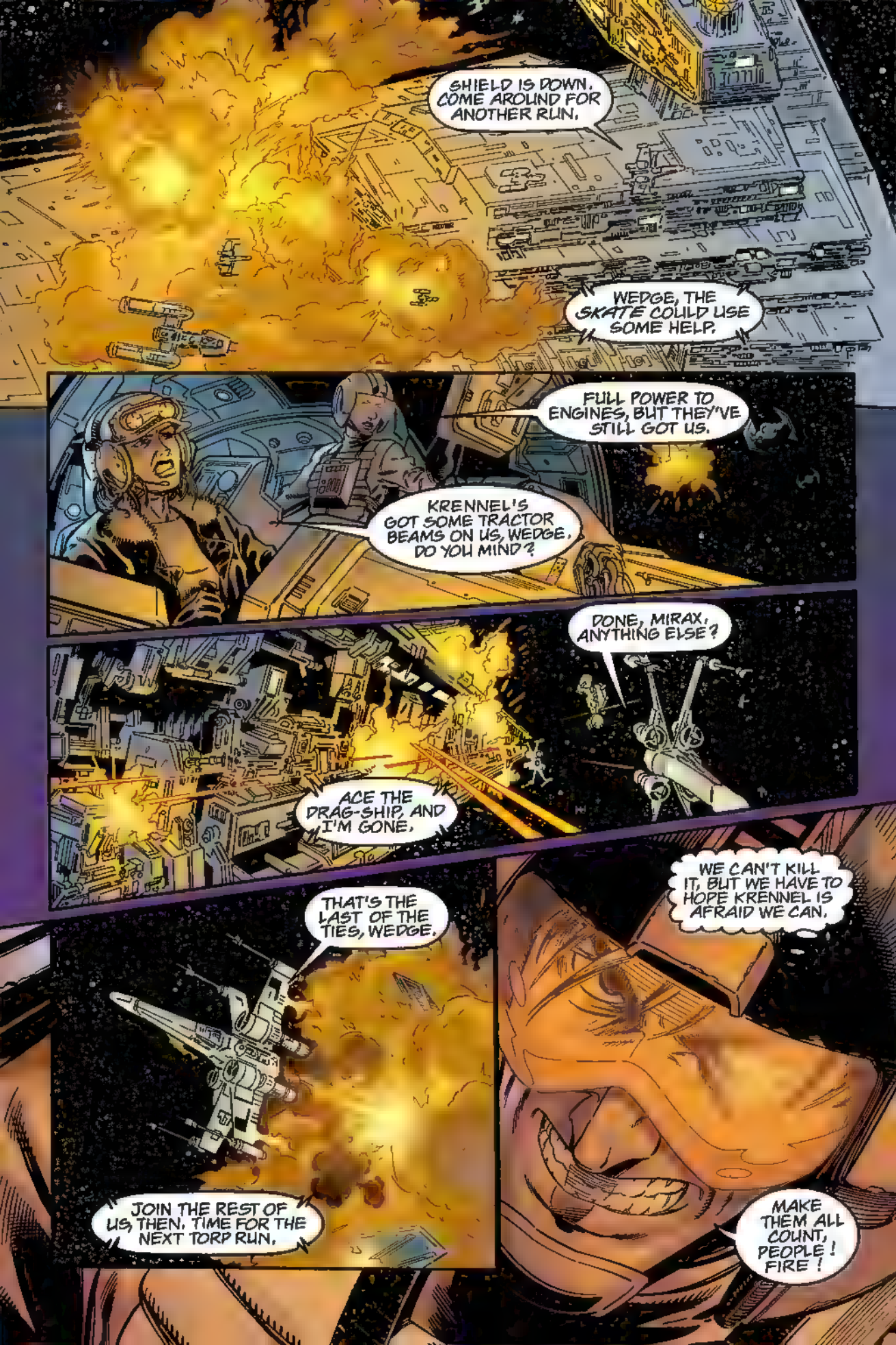

IMPERIAL HOTEL, IMPERIAL CENTER, EARLY AFTERNOON
ISN'T THAT--?
TRIBUNE CHALLER? I THINK SO. WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?
"CONTROLLING AN EMPIRE THAT SPANS A WHOLE GALAXY IS NOT EASY WORK."
WHATEVER HE WANTS. ALL THIS IS HIS NOW.
"IT CAN BE WORK FRAUGHT WITH DANGER, OR WORK FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES..."
I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD COME AND MEET ME.
YOUR INVITATION WAS ONE I COULD SCARCELY REFUSE.
A SAVAREEN BRANDY STINGER, MY FAVORITE.
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.
"...EVERYONE WANTS SOMETHING FROM A MAN IN POWER..."
I WANTED SOMETHING FROM HIM: HIS LIFE. I GOT IT, TOO.
IT'S A PITY IT WAS JUST THAT EASY.

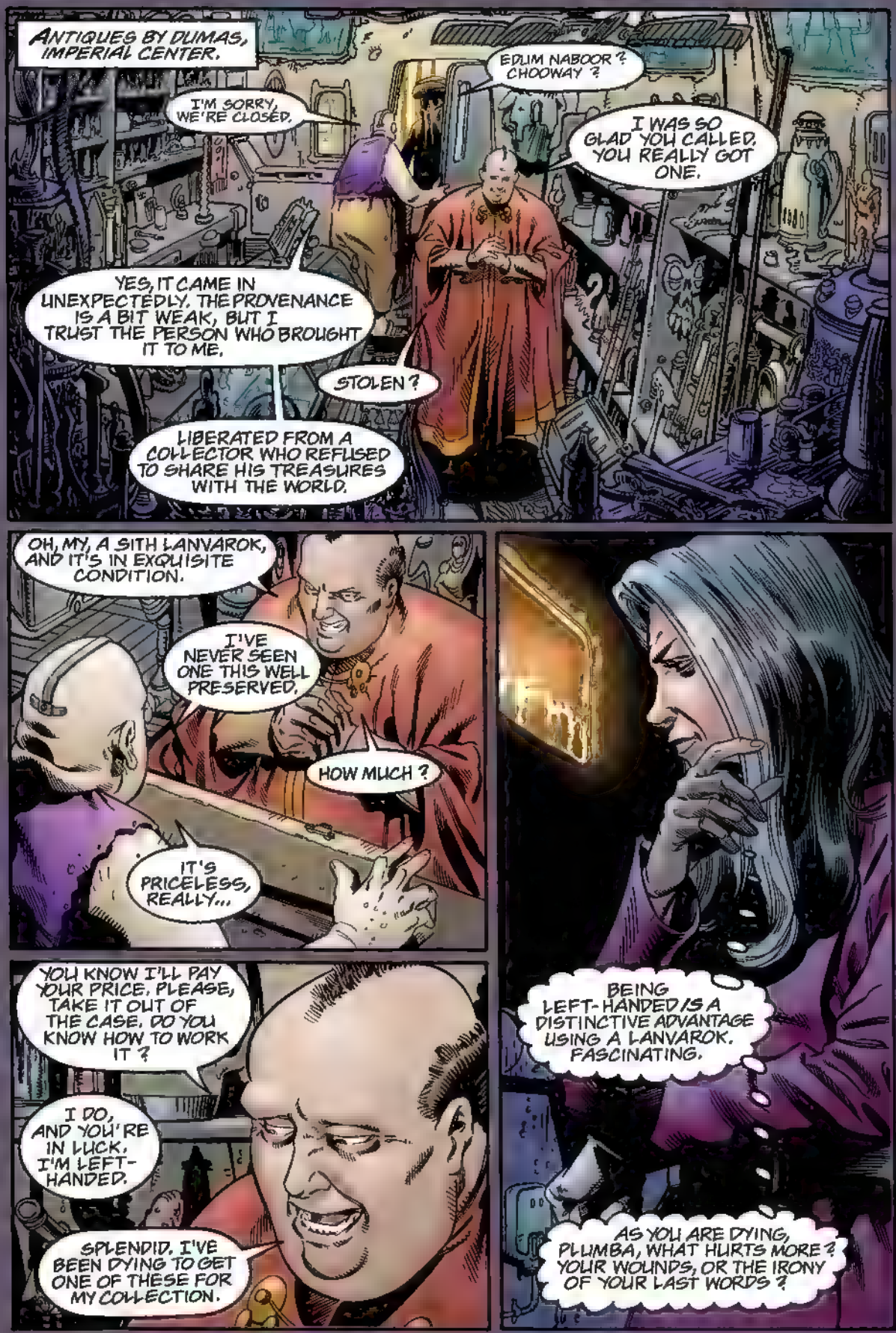
GENERAL, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST KEPT YOUR PEOPLE AT THE EDGE OF THE SYSTEM WAITING FOR US.
GOOD THING HE DID. I FOUND THEM WHEN I HOPPED SHORT TO CHECK THINGS OUT. I WAS THE BAIT AND THEY DID THE JOB.
WELL DONE.
GLAD TO RETURN THE FAVORS YOU'VE DONE FOR ME IN THE PAST.
THE REINFORCEMENTS ARE WELCOME, VERY WELCOME.
IT'S GOOD HOW THIS WORKED. I WANT TO USE THE SKATE TO TRICK KRENNEL INTO THINKING PESTAGE IS GONE.
I'LL PILOT THE SKATE, JANSON CAN TAKE MY X-WING, AND ALL OF US WILL POP UP AND USE OUR PROTON TORPEDOES ON...
...THE INTERDICTOR. GOOD, DRIVE IT OFF AND WE CAN LEAVE AT OUR LEISURE.
SOUND STRATEGY.
THEN KAPP'S PEOPLE HEAD OUT WITH PESTAGE AFTER THE INTERDICTOR IS GONE?
WASTING THE INTERDICTOR STILL LEAVES THE RECKONING, BUT THAT'S ONLY THE MINOR PROBLEM WITH THIS PLAN...
RIGHT, WE'LL HIT THE RECKONING WITH THE TORPS. WE'LL MAKE HIM THINK WE WANT TO POT HIS SHIP, SO HE'LL PULL OUT.
YOU THINK KRENNEL WILL RUN?
HE'LL RUN. DROP SHOTS INTO THE BRIDGE AND HE'LL FLEE, THINKING WE INTEND TO GO AFTER HIM, SPECIFICALLY.

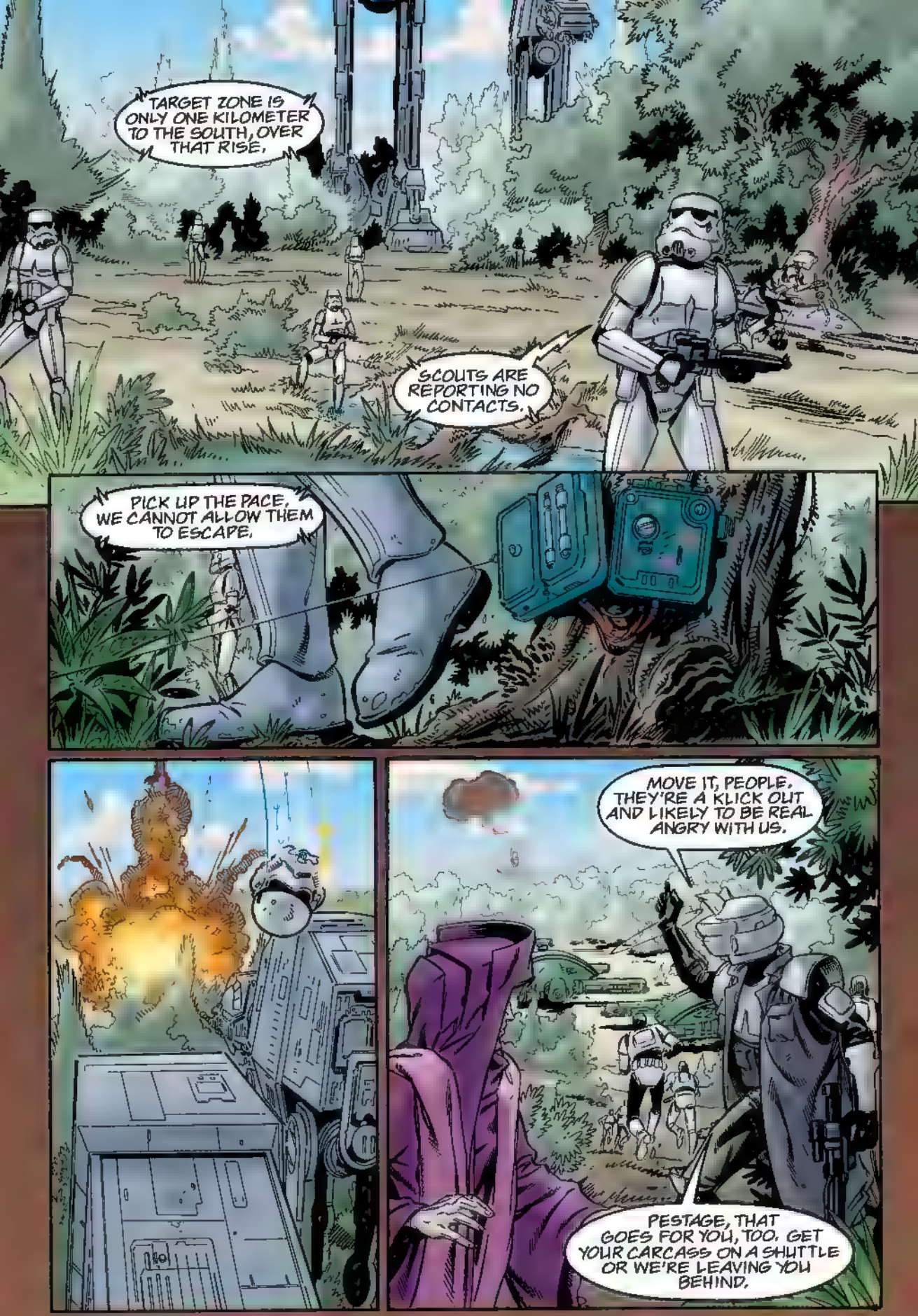
THERE'S STILL A PROBLEM, WEDGE.
AND THAT IS?
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF THINKING YOU'LL BE DRIVING THE SKATE?
BUT, MIRAX, IT'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS.
NOT AS BAD AS YOU TRYING TO TAKE MY SHIP AWAY.
BUT JANSON NEEDS MY R2 UNIT.
FLYBOYS! I KNEW YOU'D NEED R2 UNITS, SO I BROUGHT SOME SPARES.
SHE'S GOT YOU THERE, WEDGE.
SHE SURE DOES.
UH-HUH.
AND SHE'S CARRYING EGO-PIERCING WEAPONS, TOO.
THEN ALL YOU FLYBOYS ARE IN TROUBLE.
I WON'T HAVE YOU RISK YOUR LIFE, MIRAX.
JUST MY SHIP, WHICH IS MY LIFE.
MAYBE YOU NEED TO GET MORE OF A LIFE.
SURE, AFTER I GET THE SKATE OFF THIS ROCK, WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.
OKAY, MIRAX FLIES DECOY WHILE WE NAIL THE RECKONING. A FULL LOAD OF TORPS SHOULD TAKE A SHIELD DOWN, SO THE NEXT ONE WILL HIT HARD.
WE GET AWAY SAFE AND I'LL LET YOU SET ME UP WITH ONE OF YOUR PILOTS. BUT I'LL WAIT TILL YOU HAVE SOME CUTE ONES. DEAL?
I'M NOT CUTE?
IT'S A PLAN.
ONCE EVERYTHING IS GONE, OUR SHUTTLES ROLL OUT WITH THE PACKAGE BEFORE KRENNEL'S GROUND TROOPS GET HERE. GOT IT.

GET EVERYONE GOING NOW. WE WANT TO HIT WHILE THEY'RE STILL REELING.
I'M HOBB.E. REMEMBER ME?
YOU'RE HARD TO FORGET, HOBBIE.
THERE IS ONE OTHER PROBLEM YOU HAVE WITH YOUR PLAN, CAPTAIN.
TRIED HARD, HAVE YOU, MIRAX?
WHAT NOW?
MY SHUTTLE ASSIGNMENT HAS ME IN A CABIN WITH IBTISAM'S BODY.
IT WILL ONLY BE A SHORT WHILE.
UNACCEPTABLE.
I WILL NOT BE TRAPPED WITH ANIMAL WASTE NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON.
"ANIMAL WASTE?!"
I AM A MAN. I DO NOT HAVE TO ENDURE THAT TREATMENT.
DON'T MAKE ME GO VADER ON YOU. IBTISAM WAS A PILOT AND A FRIEND AND SHE DIED TO SAVE YOUR SORRY HIDE.
BUT DON'T WORRY, I'LL CHANGE YOUR ASSIGNMENT. SHE DESERVES BETTER THAN YOU FOR A CABINMATE. NOW GET OUT OF HERE.


HERE WE GO. MAKE THE SHOTS COUNT. TWO RUNS, THEN WE RUN.
ROGUES, S-FOILS IN ATTACK POSITION. MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU ALL.
FIVE, TAKE TWO FLIGHTS AND WORK ON THE TIES.
AS ORDERED, LEAD.
EVERYONE ELSE, ON MY MARK. PREP TORPEDOES FOR DUAL FIRE.
CLOSING TO POINT-BLANK RANGE. KEEP STEADY.
TRIM IT UP, AGGRESSOR WING.
FIRE!


SHIELD IS DOWN. COME AROUND FOR ANOTHER RUN.
WEDGE, THE SKATE COULD USE SOME HELP.
FULL POWER TO ENGINES, BUT THEY'VE STILL GOT US.
KRENNEL'S GOT SOME TRACTOR BEAMS ON US, WEDGE. DO YOU MIND?
DONE, MIRAX. ANYTHING ELSE?
ACE THE DRAG-SHIP, AND I'M GONE.
WE CAN'T KILL IT, BUT WE HAVE TO HOPE KRENNEL IS AFRAID WE CAN.
THAT'S THE LAST OF THE TIES, WEDGE.
JOIN THE REST OF US, THEN. TIME FOR THE NEXT TORP RUN.
MAKE THEM ALL COUNT, PEOPLE! FIRE!


ANTIQUES BY DUMAS, IMPERIAL CENTER.
I'M SORRY, WE'RE CLOSED.
EDLIM NABOOR? CHOOWAY?
I WAS SO GLAD YOU CALLED. YOU REALLY GOT ONE.
YES, IT CAME IN UNEXPECTEDLY. THE PROVENANCE IS A BIT WEAK, BUT I TRUST THE PERSON WHO BROUGHT IT TO ME.
STOLEN?
LIBERATED FROM A COLLECTOR WHO REFUSED TO SHARE HIS TREASURES WITH THE WORLD.
OH, MY, A SITH LANVAROK, AND IT'S IN EXQUISITE CONDITION.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE THIS WELL PRESERVED.
HOW MUCH?
IT'S PRICELESS, REALLY...
YOU KNOW I'LL PAY YOUR PRICE, PLEASE, TAKE IT OUT OF THE CASE. DO YOU KNOW HOW TO WORK IT?
I DO, AND YOU'RE IN LUCK. I'M LEFT-HANDED.
SPLENDID. I'VE BEEN DYING TO GET ONE OF THESE FOR MY COLLECTION.
BEING LEFT-HANDED IS A DISTINCTIVE ADVANTAGE USING A LANVAROK. FASCINATING.
AS YOU ARE DYING, PLUMBA, WHAT HURTS MORE? YOUR WOUNDS, OR THE IRONY OF YOUR LAST WORDS?


TARGET ZONE IS ONLY ONE KILOMETER TO THE SOUTH, OVER THAT RISE.
SCOUTS ARE REPORTING NO CONTACTS.
PICK UP THE PACE, WE CANNOT ALLOW THEM TO ESCAPE.
MOVE IT, PEOPLE. THEY'RE A KLICK OUT AND LIKELY TO BE REAL ANGRY WITH US.
PESTAGE, THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO. GET YOUR CARCASS ON A SHUTTLE OR WE'RE LEAVING YOU BEHIND.

TORPS ARE TRACKING AND ON TARGET !

SCAN REPORTS SERIOUS DAMAGE. ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY GENERATORS ARE GONE.

SHIELD GENERATORS GONE. *BINDER* IS RUNNING.

DEAD ON TARGET. GOOD SHOOTING !

HELMSMAN, YOU HEARD THE ORDER. GET US *OUT OF HERE* !

RECKONING IS RUNNING; WE'RE CLEAR TO LIFT!
GET OUT OF MY WAY; I'M COMING!
GO, KAPP. LEAVE ME. DON'T DIE FOR ME.
DIE FOR YOU? NO WAY. I'M GOING TO DATE A PRINCESS, SO I'M NOT DYING HERE.
PAGE, GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS GUY.
HEY, LET'S GET SOME SHUTTLING GOING WITH THIS BEAST!
GOOD TO HAVE ATMOSPHERE BELOW US. CALL THE OTHER SHUTTLE AND MAKE SURE PESTAGE ISN'T A PROBLEM.
AS ORDERED, COMMANDER.
KAPP, THEY SAY PESTAGE IS WITH US SINCE HE'S NOT WITH THEM.
SITHSPAWN!
WE GOING BACK?
NOT FOR ALL THE SPICE ON KESSEL. PESTAGE MADE A CHOICE. LET HIM LIVE WITH IT... IF HE CAN.

YOU PLAYED ADMIRABLY TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS, ADMIRAL. WHEN I COMLINKED THEIR PLANS TO YOU, I DID NOT THINK YOU WOULD LET THE *RECKONING* RUN AS IT DID.
THAT WAS NEVER MY INTENTION. I WOULD NOT HAVE RUN, BUT MY AIDE FEARED LOSING MY SHIP MORE THAN LOSING ROGUE SQUADRON. HE WILL PAY FOR HIS ERROR.
AND I SHALL PAY TO REPAIR YOUR SHIP, DRAWING FROM THE RESOURCES OF MY HOLDINGS. YOU WILL BE MY WARLORD AND TOGETHER, WE WILL FORM THE NUCLEUS OF A NEW EMPIRE.
YOU HAVE OVER A DOZEN WORLDS, CORRECT? AND PERSONAL FORCES SCATTERED ABOUT, ENOUGH TO HOLD WHAT YOU HAVE?
I DO, AND IT WILL BE UP TO YOU TO COMMAND THEM AND EVEN EXPAND WHAT I HAVE. WHEN YOU DO, YOU WILL FIND I AM A GENEROUS MAN.
REALLY? I'VE ALWAYS VIEWED GENEROSITY AS A WEAKNESS, TO BE EXPLOITED.
EXPLOITED RUTHLESSLY.
CRACK!
WHAT WAS YOURS IS NOW MINE. CARVIN IS NOT MY MASTER. ISARD IS NOT MY MASTER. I AM NOW MY OWN MASTER, AND THE NEW REPUBLIC WILL RUE THE DAY THEY COME AFTER ME.

AH, TRIBUNE CARVIN. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN ME.
I TRUST YOU WERE NOT TOO INCONVENIENCED BY MY SUMMONS.

THIS IS TREASON!
NO, THIS IS TO PRESERVE THE EMPIRE. YOU WOULD HAVE DESTROYED IT AND THAT COULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN.
SO YOU WILL MURDER ME AS YOU DID THE OTHER TRIBUNES?
MURDER? THAT WAS PEST CONTROL.
THEN WILL I BE CONTROLLED, TOO?
OH, YES, BUT NOT IN THE WAY YOU THINK. I HAVE A PLACE I HAVE DEVELOPED FOR PEOPLE LIKE YOU. ONES WHO MIGHT BE OF SOME USE.
YOU COULD AGAIN SERVE THE EMPIRE, PROVIDED YOUR TRUCULENT ATTITUDE COULD BE MODERATED.
I WILL *NEVER* BECOME YOUR PLAYTHING.
OH, GENERAL CARVIN, I THINK YOU WILL FIND YOU WILL BECOME ALL MANNER OF THINGS WHEN YOU REACH THE *LUSANKYA* FACILITY.
TAKE HIM TO LUSANKYA. ALSO, HAVE THEM PREP MY CLONE FOR A NEW ROUND OF PROGRAMMING. MY NEW POSITION NECESSITATES SOME CHANGES.
AS YOU WISH, MADAM DIRECTOR.
MY WISH IS THE DEATH OF THIS REBELLION, NOW WITH THE EMPIRE IN MY HANDS, THERE WILL BE NO ONE TO STOP ME FROM MAKING THAT WISH COME TRUE.

I WISH OUR MONUMENT TO THE FALLEN OF ROGUE SQUADRON WAS MORE PERMANENT. PERHAPS, WHEN WE WIN, IT WILL BE, PERMANENT AND NO LONGER SUBJECT TO EXPANSION.
I THINK ALL THE ROGUES WE HONOR HERE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED IF NONE OF THEIR COMRADES EVER JOINED THEIR RANKS IN DEATH.
IBTISAM IS JOINING THEM. HER HEROISM MATCHES THEIR HEROISM, AND HER COMPASSION...
... IBTISAM'S HUGE HEART LET HER LOOK PAST THE PREJUDICE THAT POISONS THE EMPIRE AND SEARCH FOR A NEW, BEAUTIFUL FUTURE.
SOME MIGHT THINK THAT SHE, AND WE, FAILED IN THIS, OUR LAST MISSION, BECAUSE SATE PESTAGE DIDN'T ESCAPE. THIS FAILURE WOULD MAKE HER DEATH AN IRONIC TRAGEDY.
THE TRAGEDY ON CIUTRIC WAS THAT PESTAGE'S HATREDS CONSUMED HIM, AND THEREBY DOOMED OTHERS TO THE OPPRESSION OF AN IMPERIAL WARLORD.
THAT IBTISAM'S SACRIFICE HELD OPEN THE DOOR THAT WOULD HAVE LET PESTAGE RECONSIDER AND SAVE BILLIONS MEANS SHE SOLD HER LIFE WELL. PESTAGE SQUANDERED IT, AND *THAT* IS THE TRAGEDY.

WHAT MADE IBTISAM A ROGUE WAS HER WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT DANGER BECAUSE THE PAYOFF OF FREEDOM FOR OTHERS WAS MORE THAN WORTH IT.
OF COURSE, WITH THE PAIN OF HER LOSS SO STINGINGLY FRESH IN OUR HEARTS, THAT PAYOFF SEEMS MEAGER, INDEED.
BUT FOR IBTISAM, KNOWING SHE SAVED US, SO WE COULD CONTINUE TO LIVE, THE PAYOFF WAS BEYOND MEASURE.
SHE GAVE HER FUTURE TO US. IT IS AN INVESTMENT IN WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE VALUE. WHAT WE DO WITH IT, WHAT WE MAKE OF IT WILL DETERMINE THE ULTIMATE VALUE OF WHAT HER LIFE WILL MEAN.

" SO, TO YOU, IBTISAM, AND ALL OUR COMRADES, FAREWELL. THOUGH OUR STRUGGLE WITH THE EMPIRE CONTINUES, YOU BROUGHT IT THAT MUCH CLOSER TO AN END. AND WHEN IT IS GONE, YOU AND YOUR COURAGE WILL BE REMEMBERED AND LIVE ON FOREVER. MAY THE FORCE ALWAYS BE WITH YOU. "

A Word About the Omnibus Collections

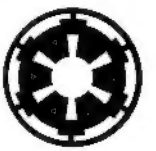
Dark Horse Comics' *Star Wars* Omnibus Collections were created as a way to showcase actual novel-length stories or series, and to provide homes for "orphaned" series, single-issue stories, and short stories which would otherwise never be collected, or which might fall out of print.

STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVEL TIMELINE (IN YEARS)

The Golden Age of the Sith—5,000 BSW4
Fall of the Sith Empire—5,000 BSW4
Knights of the Old Republic—4,000 BSW4
The Freedon Nadd Uprising—3,998 BSW4
Dark Lords of the Sith—3,997 BSW4
Sith War—3,996 BSW4
Redemption—3,986 BSW4
Commencement—3,964 BSW4
Jedi vs. Sith—1000 BSW4
Stark Hyperspace War—44 BSW4
Qui-Gon & Obi-Wan—38-37 BSW4
Jedi Council—33.5 BSW4
Prelude to Rebellion—33 BSW4
Darth Maul—33 BSW4
Republic Volumes 1-9—32-19 BSW4
Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace—32 BSW4
Outlander—31 BSW4
Emissaries to Malastare—31 BSW4
Twilight—30 BSW4
Jedi Quest—28 BSW4
Jango Fett—27 BSW4
Zam Wesell—27 BSW4
Starfighter—24 BSW4
Star Wars: Episode II—Attack of the Clones—22 BSW4
Clone Wars—22-19 BSW4
General Grievous—20 BSW4
Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith—19 BSW4
Dark Times—19 BSW4
Droids—5 BSW4
Jabba the Hutt: Art of the Deal—5 BSW4
Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire—3 BSW4
Classic Star Wars: Han Solo at Stars' End—2 BSW4
Underworld—1 BSW4
Star Wars: Episode IV—A New Hope—SW4
Empire Volumes 1-7—0 ASW4
Rebellion—0 ASW4
Vader's Quest—0+ ASW4
Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures—0+ ASW4
River of Chaos—0+ ASW4
Classic Star Wars—0-3 ASW4
Shadow Stalker—0-3 ASW4
Splinter of the Mind's Eye—2 ASW4
Star Wars: Episode V—The Empire Strikes Back—3 ASW4
Tales From Mos Eisley—3 ASW4
Shadows of the Empire—3+ ASW4
Star Wars: Episode VI—Return of the Jedi—4 ASW4
Jabba the Hutt: The Jabba Tape—4 ASW4
Mara Jade—4 ASW4
Shadows of the Empire—Evolution—4 ASW4
Classic Star Wars: The Vandelhelm Mission—4+ ASW4
X-Wing Rogue Squadron—4+ ASW4
Boba Fett: Twin Engines of Destruction—5 ASW4
Heir to the Empire—9 ASW4
Dark Force Rising—9 ASW4
The Last Command—9 ASW4
Dark Empire—10+ ASW4
Boba Fett: Death, Lies, and Treachery—10+ ASW4
Boba Fett: Agent of Doom—10+ ASW4
Empire's End—11 ASW4
Crimson Empire—11+ ASW4
Jedi Academy: Leviathan—12 ASW4
Union—20 ASW4
Chewbacca—25 ASW4
Legacy—137 ASW4

Old Republic Era
25,000 – 1000 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope

Rise of the Empire Era
1000 – 0 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope



Rebellion Era
0 – 5 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Republic Era
5 – 25 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Jedi Order Era
25+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Legacy Era
130+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Infinities
Does not apply to timeline

Sergio Aragones Stomps Star Wars
Star Wars Tales
Infinities
Tag and Bink
Star Wars Visionaries

BSW4 = before *Episode IV: A New Hope*. ASW4 = after *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

STAR WARS®

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